FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ALFONSIN SPEAKS ON NUCLEAR ENERGY PLANS

PY111911 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 11 May 84

[Speech by President Raul Alfonsin when visiting Nuclear Plants Atucha I and II in Lima, Zarate County, Buenos Aires Province -- live]

[Excerpts] Mister President of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], gentlemen:

The country has suffered a profound recession in its socioeconomic development, which has caused a dramatic deterioration of the standard of living of its citizens. To reverse this situation now implies resorting to the maximum use of our own creative capacity, channeling it toward clear, consistent objectives, and creating a climate of appropriate achievements.

The country stands out for having achieved a consistent scientific and technological development in the nuclear field, through more than 30 years of activity of a highly disciplined group of persons whose capacity and tenaciousness are reflected in the achievements we can see today.

From the very beginning the Argentine nuclear program was aimed at achieving a creative capacity and a technological development which would allow us to obtain the maximum autonomy in this field. The effort made to reach the proposed objectives has made it possible for the country, a few years after the creation of the CNEA, to see the results of its efforts through these positive achievements.

Thus, through the program for the production of radioisotopes and the use of production of radiation sources, our citizens have access to one of the most advanced technologies in medicine, and at the same time, to a valuable tool to face and solve important problems in the agriculture and livestock sectors, a tool which is also valuable for engineering, industries, and for environment protection.

Later, the scientific and technological training gained in this activity allowed a gradual but consistent development in different technological sectors which aims at granting the necessary capacity for the production of nucleoelectric energy, with full decisionmaking power.

In this regard, I also want to stress the capacity achieved in mastering the fuel cycle, and the efforts being made to reach self-sufficiency in producing heavy water and several nuclear components and inputs, and particularly the fact that we have achieved, with our own effort, a national technology for enriching uranium. It is also appropriate to mention the progress made in matters of industrial architecture and engineering, which will allow the construction of new nuclear plants with a more significant increase in national participation.

In order to guarantee the achievements obtained and the role which the generation of nuclear electricity will undoubtedly play to meet the demands for energy during the next century, my government intends to submit to the honorable Congress of the nation a nuclear bill to guarantee that the objectives of this sector be established through the powers obtained through the vote of the citizenry; to guarantee the peaceful nature of these objectives for the present and the future; to grant the necessary authority and flexibility to the CNEA, as an organization that implements the Argentine nuclear program; to guarantee the state monopoly over the development, acquisition, and use of nuclear technology as a means to ensure that it will be at the exclusive service of the great national interests; to grant to the national authority for protection against nuclear radiation the necessary autonomy for the full exercise of its functions in defense of the health of the people and of the environment.

The government also intends, through careful energy planning, to make the objectives of the current Argentine nuclear program compatible with the country's possibilities to make investments, making sure that nuclear activities as a whole will have an adequate development.

We are aware of the serious difficulties the Argentine nuclear industry is facing today, due to the serious economic problems we have encountered on assuming the government. We are also aware of the limitations which, for similar reasons, the CNEA professionals and technicians must overcome in trying to attain the objectives established for their activities.

VICE PRESIDENT ON 'POSSIBILITY' OF U.S. ARMS DEAL

PY111806 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1553 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpt] Santa Fe, 11 May (NA) -- Vice President Victor Martinez has admitted the possibility that Argentina may purchase arms from the United States, "because the Armed Forces have to be armed to meet the requirements of our security." As he stopped here on his way to Cordoba, Vice President Martinez noted that Argentina needs to refurbish its military equipment, but "we do not want a world armed at the expense of its development."

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES POLICY OUTLOOK

PY111810 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2320 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 May (NA) -- In an interview published today in this capital, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said that Argentina feels "fully Western" but that this "does not mean it belongs to a military alliance." He also said that "irrational relations turned into hegemonies which destroyed Argentina's autonomy" must give way to "credibility and seriousness" in the dialogue with the United States. The foreign minister made those statements in Madrid to the weekly magazine SOMOS, which carries them in the issue that will go on sale tomorrow.

Upon his return to Buenos Aires from a tour through Spain and Austria, Caputo denied ever having said that Sandinism "is a model for Latin America," adding that he has never held an "anti-U.S. position." He recalled that the Radical Civic Union has always maintained that "mature relations have to be established with the United States, that is, relations in which dialogue, credibility, and seriousness leave behind irrational relations turned into hegemonies that really destroyed the Argentine autonomy."

Caputo emphasized that "what we seek is serious dialogue, credibility to be a valuable interlocutor of a great power, the world's largest power, such as the United States, which includes Latin America in its area of influence."

In the interview granted to journalist Esteban Peicovich, the foreign minister rejected the idea that there is a contradiction between Argentina's protestations of Western sentiments and its membership in the nonaligned countries movement. Caputo said: "We have accepted and wanted to organize the Argentine society on the basis of Western culture, such as individual freedom, free enterprise, pluralistic democracy, and absence of censorship." He then stated: "We see ourselves as fully Western, as part of a culture in which we were brought up and in which the Argentine society can be organized. But this does not imply belonging to a military alliance."

Caputo then explained that "nonalignment means defending the convenience of not being placed in a certain camp. This means not to take part in any of the two military alliances in which the world is divided. It furthermore means to make a common effort with other nonaligned countries to keep our countries from becoming fertile ground for the East-West conflict."

The foreign minister stressed the "progressive position" of the current government, and the fact that it is not identified with the right that governed the country in the recent past. Caputo noted that as a result of the actions of those governments, there is an "isolation of the country, a sort of provincialization in the political opinion of some Argentine sectors which ignores the progress the world has made, the state of the political debate in the world."

Caputo explained that he is not a social democrat, because he lives in Argentina and "the Argentine reality has nothing to do with the European reality, and social democracy makes sense in European history."

CNEA CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCES $700-MILLION BUDGET

PY110320 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0043 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 May (TELAM) -- Alberto Constantini, the chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), today reported that the CNEA's 1984 budget is about $700 million and that he disagrees with the idea that it would be better to allot this amount to other more important national problems.

Constantini referred to the CNEA and his duties in a speech he made during the monthly luncheon of the National Engineers Center over which he has presided for the past 10 years.

Regarding nuclear energy production, he said that the efforts which have been carried out in the country have allowed us to achieve a high degree of independence regarding the technology that is used. He added: "In view of the strategy implemented by countries with high nuclear technology, it is foreseeable that Argentina will have to develop and manufacture spare parts which because of the high cost that this implies it would do better to acquire in the international market."

Regarding the budget issue, Constantini noted that nuclear energy will solve Argentina's problems because technological innovations and scientific development will allow us to be among the most advanced countries of the world.

BEAGLE DELEGATE CRITICIZES CHILEAN REMARKS

PY122150 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1926 GMT 12 May 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 12 May (NA) -- Today Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo, chief of the Argentine delegation to the papal mediation over the Beagle conflict, said that the remarks attributed to his Chilean counterpart, Ernesto Videla, that the islands in dispute undoubtedly "belong" to Chile "obstruct the progress of negotiations."

Etcheverry Boneo emphasized that "we are in a mediation in which the land, maritime, and airspaces are pending delimitation, therefore no one can at this time exhibit a definite title over anything."

Yesterday Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and his close advisers held a "work meeting" with General Etcheverry Boneo, retired, to study the state of the negotiations with Chile over this conflict which put these two countries on the threshold of war in 1978.

Asked by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS about information from Chile indicating that the work being carried out only involves "the delimitation of maritime space" in the Beagle Channel, the Argentine delegate said that "this is one of the aspects, because the conflict involves the delimitation of jurisdictions which covers maritime, land, and airspaces."

Etcheverry was informed that according to reports from Chile, Colonel Ernesto Videla said that the Picton, Lenox, and Nueva Islands "undoubtedly belong to Chile" and that this was authenticated by an "an arbitration award in which the decision is absolutely clear."

Etcheverry Boneo, obviously annoyed, labeled that remark as "totally incorrect," recalling that the arbitration award of the British Crown "was declared null by Argentina (in 1978) and because it did not solve the problem over which we went to the mediation."

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF GDR DEPUTY MINISTER

Integration Ties Discussed

PY111450 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0344 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 May (TELAM) -- The fostering of integration ties between Argentina and the GDR was discussed today between GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Bernhard Neugebauer and Argentine Foreign Ministry officials.

At the talks held at San Martin Palace, the Argentine work group was headed by Elsa Kelly, secretary of state for international relations and worship, who gave a luncheon in Neugebauer's honor at noon today. The GDR visitor also met with other officials of the ministry to continue talks on economic and political issues, including subjects such as disarmament, the various regional conflicts, and particularly the current situation in Central America.

Regarding Central America, Neugebauer has already told the press that a peaceful solution as soon as possible is being sought. His visit to Argentina will end on Saturday, 12 May.

Neugebauer Satisfied With Visit

PY111800 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of the GDR has said that in Argentina he has found complete agreement in that there is no alternative other than peace to the great international questions. Neugebauer presented greetings to Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, and as he left the San Martin Palace he reiterated his opinion that there is complete agreement on the need for cooperation to find fair solutions by peaceful means. He added that the two nations support the efforts made by the Contadora Group to attain peace in Central America.

Neugebauer stated that he is returning to his country satisfied with the results of his visit and impressed by Argentina's democratic development. On the other hand, he denied that there have been talks about nuclear energy because this question plays no role in bilateral relations between Argentina and the GDR.

Foreign Ministry on Visit

PY120101 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2311 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 May (TELAM) -- It was officially reported at San Martin Palace today that Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has accepted an invitation from GDR Ambassador Oskar Fischer to visit the GDR. In the same communique, San Martin Palace reported on the activities carried out by GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Bernhard Neugebauer, who arrived in Argentina on 9 May to discuss international matters and bilateral relations.

Regarding international matters, it was reported that the discussion was focused mainly on the actions of the Contadora Group to find a peaceful solution to the Central American problem, and on maintaining the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries.

The parties also agreed on the dangers posed by the arms race to international peace and security and on the urgent need for the international community to prevent a nuclear war. Both parties promised to cooperate with each other at the upcoming UN Assembly and they agreed to hold a high-level meeting in Berlin to continue with the system of reciprocal annual talks agreed upon. Argentina particularly expressed appreciation for the solidarity of the GDR during the South Atlantic conflict and its support at the United Nations.

Regarding bilateral ties, the two parties stressed the need to increase them through negotiations and agreements. The GDR submitted the draft of a cultural agreement and Argentina submitted one of a global cooperation agreement.

GDR Minister Press Conference

PY121342 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0207 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 May (TELAM) -- GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Bernahrd Neugebauer this afternoon announced that the GDR has proposed the creation of a nuclear-free zone in Europe which would serve as a barrier between the Eastern and Western blocs.

The diplomat made the announcement during a press conference held at the offices of the Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI). During the press conference, CARI President Jorge Aja Espil gave to Neugebauer the documents that accredit him as a member of this organization.

In a passage dedicated to the actions by the GDR Government, Neugebauer said that the Swedish Government supports the creation of the nuclear-free zone and that the GDR expects other nations to support it as well. He also pointed out the lack of unemployment in the GDR and the social achievements made by it.

Regarding bilateral relations with Argentina, he said he was confident that economic, scientific, and technological cooperation agreements would be signed during the meeting of top Argentine and GDR officials to be held in Berlin in 1985.

With his press conference at the CARI offices, Neugebauer concluded his official visit, which started on Wednesday. At 1815 tomorrow he will depart from Ezeiza for the GDR.

CUBAN AMBASSADOR ARRIVES, TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS

PY120305 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0104 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 May (TELAM) -- Fernando Lopez Muino, new Cuban ambassador to Argentina, arrived in the country at noon today and will present his credentials to President Alfonsin next week. The ambassador stated that "my mission here will be to strengthen the relationship between the two countries," but refused to make any further statements since he is still not officially the ambassador.

Lopez Muino, who is 53 years old, was born in Cienfuegos and is an education expert. After obtaining his degree in civil law at Havana University he occupied the posts of provincial education deputy director in Las Villas Province (1948-59), national education director, head of the secondary teaching system, and vice minister for technical and professional education (1960-64). During 1964-68 he taught on the technology faculty of Havana University and later acted as alternate representative to the FAO and was Cuban ambassador to Mexico before being appointed to Argentina.

JUDICIAL RULING ON PERON PROPERTY CASE APPEALED

PY110325 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2040 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 May (TELAM) -- Federal Prosecutor Alberto Daniel Piotti today lodged a writ of appeal against Judge Norberto Angel Giletta's decision declaring unconstitutional Decree No 1319 through which the executive branch desisted from filing lgal actions against property belonging to former President Maria Estela Martinez Peron.

The prosecutor asked the acting judge to uphold the petition and to submit the case to the federal criminal and correctional court, noting that he expressly reserves the right to appeal the judges' decision to the Supreme Court of Justice.

BRIEFS

NEW HONDURAN AMBASSADOR -- Buenos Aires, 30 Apr (TELAM) -- At Government House today President Raul Alfonsin received the credentials of Roberto Ramos Bustos, the new Honduran ambassador to Argentina. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1628 GMT 30 Apr 84 PY]

GOVERNMENT REJECTS COB DEMAND FOR RESIGNATIONS

PY121813 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpt] La Paz, 11 May (TELAM) -- Today the government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo rejected the demand of the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) that the six ministers of the economic team resign as a condition for the resumption of talks between the COB and the executive branch. The talks were suspended last week when the government made its salary proposal to the workers, who were on a nationwide 72-hour strike.

Today Labor Minister Horst Grebe and Presidential Secretary General Miguel Urioste said that the COB's extreme demand cannot be accepted by the government and that the appointment or dismissal of the cabinet ministers is the exclusive right of the president.

Issues Document

PY140115 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1853 GMT 13 May 84

[By Adalio Cabrera Lemuz]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 13 May (EFE) -- The Bolivian Government today warned labor sectors that the growing social unrest, which has been caused by the economic crisis and the lack of control within the labor movement, has seriously jeopardized democracy and has encouraged subversive groups that might want to stage a new coup d'etat.

In a lengthy document, the democratic regime headed by President Hernan Siles Zuazo answered the powerful Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), which had tied the resumption of the dialogue with the government to the resignation of the economic team.

The official document, signed by Minister Secretary of the Presidency Miguel Urioste, points out that the labor demand is "exaggerated and inappropriate," and warns that attitudes of that kind strain the relations between the government and the unions. It also notes that the demand that the repayment of debts owed to international banks be suspended is equally unacceptable, because credit agencies might resort to a new economic blockade which could worsen the Bolivian financial situation, which is already critical.

The government also urged labor leaders to strengthen a "national, democratic, and popular" government by bringing into balance the interests of urban and rural labor sectors and those of the middle class.

However, the government also underlined its strong willingness to resume the dialogue with the labor sectors in order to correct possible mistakes involved in the economic decisions or to enact supplementary sociopolitical measures that should favor majority sectors.

Finally, the document strongly criticizes the decision made by the Bolivian Central Bank employees, whose leaders decreed a general indefinite strike on 12 April "to prevent the implementation of the economic package designed by the government."

During a general meeting attended by its main leaders last week, the COB decided to undertake numerous actions to pressure the government which, as the labor organization charged, "pays no heed to the starvation of the people."

Such actions include rallies, demonstrations, hunger strikes, and the blocking of highways. If the government persists in its decision to enact the drastic "economic package" against the crisis, a decision that was reiterated today, a general indefinite strike will follow.

ECONOMIC POLICY CAUSES FIRST MIR SPLIT

PY140230 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1735 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] La Paz, 13 May (EFE) -- The "Movement of the Revolutionary Left" (MIR), which is led by Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora, today underwent its first split since its creation 11 years ago, because its labor front decided to split from the Movement's leadership.

The MIR labor front, led by Walter Delgadillo, said that the decision was caused by an "arbitrary" decision by Paz Zamora and other leaders close to him who sidelined labor representatives.

Delgadillo, who resigned his post of minister of housing and urban development a few hours after being sworn in, in disagreement over the enactment of drastic economic measures by the executive branch, said that the division within the MIR was caused by the government's economic policy. He added that the reunification of the MIR will be attained only after the MIR members currently holding ministerial positions resign their posts as cabinet members.

NEW CAMPESINO AFFAIRS MINISTER INSTALLED 10 MAY

PY112045 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The Agriculture, Campesino, and Livestock Affairs Ministry has reported that the new agriculture, campesino, and livestock affairs minister was installed last night at 2130 at Government Palace. The new minister, whose name is Dr Julio Mendoza (Orinoca), graduated from the Faculty of Legal and Political Sciences of the Greater University of San Andres in La Paz.

Dr Julio Mendoza has held several important posts in the Agriculture, Campesino, and Livestock Ministry. He was one of the legal advisers of the San Julian project in Santa Cruz. He also served as regional chief for INTERNAAVI [expansion unknown], and up to yesterday was director general for labor and justice questions at the Agriculture, Campesino, and Livestock Ministry. Official spokesmen of the ministry have reported that Mendoza will take office next Monday, 14 May, at 1100.

HUANUNI MINEWORKERS RESUME OPERATIONS

PY120050 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 May 84

[Excerpt] Huanuni mineworkers have decided to resume operations. This information was supplied to us by our correspondent at that mine. Our Panamericana correspondent reports that the decision to resume work was taken during a general assembly after the reports [on talks with government authorities] submitted by the various delegates were approved.

ONE KILLED, SEVERAL INJURED IN RONDONIA RIOTS

PY120355 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0322 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Brasilia, 11 May (EFE) -- One youngster died and six persons were injured in the riots that started Wednesday in Ji-Parana, located in Rodonia State on the border with Bolivia.

Some 10,000 persons blocked the only bridge on the Machado River, which divides Ji-Parana, and interrupted the traffic toward Porto Velho (capital of Rondonia State) in order to protest the lack of electricity and the increase, up to 1,000 percent, of the municipal taxes.

The youngster drowned after jumping off the bridge to avoid being trampled by the mounted police that repressed the demonstrators. Rondonia State authorities accused the Catholic Church and the Workers Party (PT) of having stirred up the Ji-Parana inhabitants. Although a tense social atmosphere still can be felt today, the demonstration ended on Thursday afternoon after Rondonia Governor Colonel Jorge Teixeira -- who appeared in Ji-Parana -- promised to restore the supply of electricity and to review the tax increase.

GOLD DIGGERS INVADE SATELLITE TRACKING AREA

PY140135 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2343 GMT 13 May 84

[Excerpts] Cuiaba, 13 May (EFE) -- More than 1,500 "garimpeiros" (gold diggers) have invaded the area around the only South American satellite tracking station, in Cuiaba, the capital of Mato Grosso State.

The gold diggers cut the station's electric power supply line and invaded the station's area to wash auriferos rocks.

State Security Secretary Oscar Travassos has reported that the governor has set a deadline, which expires on Monday, for gold diggers to remove their machines from the area.

Travassos explained that the military police will execute the order to expel the intruders.

CORRECTION TO MEDICI GRANTS PRESS CONFERENCE

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Former President Medici Grants Press Conference" published on page D 1 of the 10 May Latin America DAILY REPORT.

Page D 2, second paragraph, line two should read: ...,which is controlled by the government,... (changing "were" to read "is controlled")

Fourth paragraph, line three should read: ...Or is it not a different thing?... (adding word "it")

PINOCHET 'WANTS' LAND ACQUISITION INVESTIGATED

PY112007 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1334 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpt] Santiago, 11 May (EFE) -- In statements made to the newspaper ULTIMAS NOTICIAS, President Augusto Pinochet has said that he wants the accusations made by an opposition group about acquisition of land near the capital to be investigated. The president stated: "I do not want judges to disqualify themselves" because I do not want "any doubt remaining" about my honor.

REPORTAGE OF ANTIGOVERNMENT PROTEST DAY

Army To Use Live Ammunition

PY111510 Paris AFP in Spanish 1437 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Concepcion, 11 May (AFP) -- Regional Intendant General Eduardo Ibanez has reported that the military forces of the Chilean zone of Concepcion have been authorized to use their weapons against persons who are suspected of sabotage or terrorist actions during an antigovernment day of protest that has been announced for today.

According to the order, the soldiers will give one warning, and if the warning is not obeyed they will fire one shot into the air; after this they will simply shoot at the persons. The general has said that the Army, regrets that it cannot use rubber bullets, because it has none in stock. It will use war munition. Ibanez added that he hopes to prevent any disruption of public services.

Concepcion, the largest city in the southern part of the country -- 500 km from Santiago -- was the scene of several bomb attacks on the eve of the antigovernment protest that is to be held today. The protest has been organized by the National Workers Command.

The National Workers Command, which is supported by a vast majority of the political sector that unites rightists and Marxists, is demanding an end to President Augusto Pinochet's government. It also holds him responsible for the nation's economic and social crisis.

Protest 'Failure' Reported

PY112150 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpts] Activities are being carried out normally throughout the country. We have a report from Talca on the morning's activities in that city. Go ahead, Radio Nacional de Chile, Talca:

[Begin Talca relay] The so-called protest that has been organized by opposition sectors was totally unnoticed in Talca. Everything is completely normal in all the city's sectors and daily activities are being carried out in a completely calm atmosphere. The protest is a failure in Talca; not even the groups which on previous occasions met on streets corners to chant slogans have been observed. [end relay]

We now have a report from Radio Nacional in the Fourth Region, from La Serena.

[Begin La Serena relay] Nobody in La Serena and Coquimbo has noticed the national protest that was announced for today. Absolute calm was observed by Radio Nacional, La Serena, personnel when they toured the area. Activities are being carried out normally. No incident has disturbed daily activities in the Fourth Region. That is all. [end relay]

The following report reaches "Onda Noticiosa" from Radio Nacional, Concepcion.

[Begin Concepcion relay] Absolute calm has reigned here in Concepcion during the past few hours. The police are investigating several bomb explosions that occurred last night in various parts of the city. Through their investigations the police hope to arrest the terrorist who pertetrated them. The bomb explosions caused electrical outages and damaged private property.

General (Achilles Bluth), commander of the Fourth Carabineros Region, said this morning that the community must be made aware of the seriousness of the crimes committed by terrorists and must report the instigators of such incidents. In other words, he has asked for the cooperation of the entire city in not protecting the perpetrators of the attacks. He also said that this kind of report would be kept confidential. Terrorists exploded at least five bombs last night in various sectors of the city.

On the other hand, statements that have been attributed to Regional Intendent General Eduardo Ibanez by an international news agency regarding the use of weapons against terrorists have been denied. They have been considered a capricious interpretation of the warning that the regional authorities gave to the media. This is all from Concepcion, where everything is normal. [end relay]

In our tour of the country we now receive a report from Antofagasta, where Radio Nacional informs us about the situation in that city.

[Begin Antofagasta relay] A group of students from the University of Antofagasta held a peaceful demonstration at noon today. The students, approximately 100, demonstrated in front of their university chanting antigovernment slogans and singing protest songs. The police did not interfere. The group of students then marched to the downtown area of the city, where another group of demonstrators was waiting for them. Both groups then proceeded to chant antigovernment slogans. There were no disorders. [end relay]

And finally, we have contact with Radio Nacional in the southern city of Punta Arenas.

[Begin Punta Arenas relay] According to reports that have been collected by our press department, the call for a peaceful protest, which has been organized by various opposition labor, community, and political organizations -- including Marxist groups -- is a complete failure here in Punta Arenas. The entire transport sector is working normally, as well as the commerce and banking sectors and public services. According to our reports, where the protest is really a failure is in the educational sector, where there was an attendance of 90 percent here in Punta Arenas. [end relay]

The National Worker Command's day of protest is a total failure. The first point in its call for a day of protest referred to a call to parents asking them not to send their children to school. School activities throughout the morning were entirely normal. Despite the threats that buses would be burned, activities in the transport sector were also normal.

There were some attempts to demonstrate in the downtown area of Santiago. Small groups at [street names indistinct] shouted slogans, but they did not receive the support of pedestrians circulating in the area. The same type of situation occurred at the gates of the Law College of the University of Chile, where small groups of people chanted political and subversive slogans.

Santiago Demonstrations

PY112155 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpts] Spontaneous demonstrations were held today by journalism students and professional journalists in downtown Santiago. The streets that lead into the downtown area and the center of Santiago were heavily guarded by members of the Carabineros forces who were ready to repel any type of incident with their water cannons and special apparatus for protest events.

The crowded Ahumada Promenade was heavily guarded. Newspaper boys, despite the tense atmosphere, were loudly offering the FORTIN MAPOCHO newspaper for sale.

In the meantime, some 50 journalists held a demonstration in front of the cathedral today at noon to protest against censorship. Another group of students and professionals also held a demonstration to protest the current political and socioeconomic situation in the country. At this point Carabineros forces acted quite harshly, wounding a student, (Florencia Martini), daughter of a journalist who works for a foreign news agency. An undetermined group of persons were arrested and the only person identified so far is a university student, (Marcelo Aros).

An atmosphere of great tension was being experienced at the law university shortly before this newscast started. Here the university students are carrying out protest activities on the university campus, while a large number of Carabineros are posted at the entrance and around the campus awaiting any incident.

Carabinero Injured

PY112225 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2207 GMT 11 May 84

[Daniel (Ortega's) report from Radio Nacional's Press Department]

[Text] A few minutes ago police sources reported on the number of detainees taken during frustrated attempts to stage [words indistinct] in various part of Santiago. The official report indicates that a Carabinero was injured by a group of agitators who attacked him at the Physics and Mathematics College of the University of Chile.

The report adds that at 1730 this afternoon, the number of detainees reached 35. These people were detained during the incidents which occurred not only at the Physics and Mathematics College but also at the University of Santiago.

3 Reporters Detained

PY120105 Paris AFP in Spanish 0022 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 11 May (AFP) -- Three Chilean journalists were detained by police during today's ninth national protest while they were covering demonstrations against General Augusto Pinochet's government.

Liliana Martinez, correspondent of Radio France International, and Oscar Valenzuela, reporter of the opposition newspaper FORTIN MAPOCHO, were detained along Paseo Ahumada in downtown Santiago when they were requesting information on some incidents which occurred between demonstrators and policemen. The Carabineros militarized police reported that the two journalists were taken to a police station as detainees.

Hector Merida, correspondent of Radio Cooperativa of Santiago, was detained in Arica, 2,100 km north of Santiago, under similar circumstances. The Association of Journalists, to which the three detainees belong, is trying to obtain their release.

30 Arrested in Santiago

PY120345 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0255 GMT 12 May 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, 11 May (EFE) -- Some 30 persons have been reported arrested in Santiago and eight others in Valparaiso as a result of the demonstrations, most of them staged by students, as part of the day of national protest.

Two of the detainees, journalists, were released after being held for several hours at a police station. They were released after the journalists' association president submitted a request to Minister Secretary General of Government Alfonso Marques de la Plata.

Sponsored by the National Workers Command, which is headed by Rodolfo Seguel, today's protest marked the first anniversary of the protest action staged on 11 May 1983. Its crowning point was the banging of pots and pans throughout the city from 2000 to 2030 (2400 to 0030 GMT).

In the afternoon, Carabineros used tear gas to disperse demonstrators chanting slogans against the military regime in the downtown area and in the vicinity of university buildings in Santiago and in front of the Catholic University building in Valparaiso.

Early in the evening, barricades interrupted traffic and tires were set on fire in the outskirts of Santiago.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 0148 GMT on 12 May reports that Liliana Martinez, the Chilean correspondent of Radio Francia Internacional, was released after being held for some hours. She was arrested while covering the ninth day of protest against the military regime. She was released "after the intervention of officials of the French Embassy in Santiago and of leaders of the Chilean Journalists' Association." Liliana Martinez was arrested by Carabineros at the downtown Paseo Ahumada in Santiago. Oscar Valenzuela, another journalist, was also arrested while he and Martinez were covering some "incidents between demonstrators and the police."]

French Priest Wounded

PY121815 Paris AFP in Spanish 0506 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 11 May (AFP) -- According to witnesses, French priest Pierre Dubois was seriously wounded tonight during a confrontation between poor people of La Victoria neighborhood and Carabineros militarized police forces.

The priest, who lives in this southern sector of the capital, was beaten on the head with sticks by about 20 policemen when he tried to stop Carabineros from arresting a group of poor people who were participating in the 9th day of peaceful protest against the military regime.

Witnesses disclosed to AFP that the well-armed policemen entered the La Victoria neighborhood (40,000 inhabitants) firing rubber bullets and tear gas. Leaders of this neighborhood reported that an undetermined number of people were hit by the rubber bullets and sticks, and that they suffered the effects of the tear gas thrown by the police. According to witnesses, the situation is very confusing in this sector, which is known for the extreme poverty of its inhabitants.

It was recalled that Father Dubois was arrested by the police on 27 March during the 8th day of protest against the government of General Augusto Pinochet.

'Criminal Elements' Organizers

PY121817 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 May 84

[Excerpts] Nine carabineros were injured last night during incidents in Santiago. Reports from hospitals in the capital also show that about 10 civilians have been attended.

Opposition groups have admitted that the call to protest was observed by a smaller number of people than before. In turn, the commander of the emergency zone in the metropolitan region and the intendant of the zone both stated that the protest was a complete failure. Although there were a few student demonstrations during the day, they were not as effective and serious as on earlier occasions. Only the most unruly, incited by agitators, were in action in the daytime. At night, the banging of pots and pans was clearly not as loud as on earlier occasions, while the barricades and terrorist attacks which took place during the night are proof that criminal elements are managing those protests called by opposition groups.

1 Dead, 10 Wounded

PY122030 Paris AFP in Spanish 1434 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 12 May (AFP) -- Police sources have reported that 1 person was killed, 10 received bullet wounds, and 130 were arrested during the ninth day of national protest held in Chile against the military government of President Augusto Pinochet which lasted until the early hours of today.

An 18-year-old youngster named Miguel Angel Gonzalez died in the Santiago Neurosurgery Institute today after being hit by a bullet in the head. It was also reported that an officer of the Carabineros militarized police was wounded by gunfire.

[Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish at 1715 GMT on 12 May reports that Miguel Angel Gonzalez, who was "walking with two friends near his house," was killed by "unidentified individuals riding in a red automobile who fired on him with a submachine gun."]

Wrap-Up of Protest, Incidents

PY122035 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] One person was killed during the peaceful protest organized by the opposition, 22 people were wounded, including 12 Carabineros, and 169 were arrested. The police also reported that five bombs exploded and that an intentional fire was set at the facilities of the Chilean Mothers Association. [passage indistinct]

Two police officers were hurt in La Victoria community as was French priest Pierre Dubois. It was officially reported that the French priest was talking to a group of carabineros about the situation in that sector when agitators attacked them with rocks, hurting the priest and Carabineros (Villaroel) and (Gatica). Also five attacks with bombs were carried out in different parts of the city causing partial outages in some sectors. [passage indistinct]

An agitator, who happens to be a teacher, who was paying demonstrators was arrested. The arrest took place at 1735 yesterday on Alameda and Amonategui Streets. (Victor Raul Manrique) was arrested when [passage indistinct] with $500 in small bills.

The obvious failure of the so-called day of protest was demonstrated by the people's lack of support. The orders given to bang on pots and pans were virtually unobserved and the noise was considerably diminished this time. Yesterday the people carried out their normal banking activities. School attendance was essentially normal, and public transportation operated like any other day except that it ended earlier for fear of vandalistic acts against buses because pamphlets were thrown in several bus stops threatening to burn vehicles. Again political agitators used darkness to carry out their actions. These agitators carried out attacks against electrical powerlines causing partial outages. They also destroyed public buildings and trees which were burned along with tires to obstruct traffic. In the areas where incidents took place individuals were seen with children, giving instructions to organize violence and destruction [words indistinct].

CCHEN PRESIDENT ON NUCLEAR PROGRAM, POLICY

PY120130 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 6 May 84 p 1

[Interview with Hernan Brady, minister president of the National Energy Commission and the Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission, CCHEN, by an unidentified reporter -- place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] In simple words, what purposes has the CCHEN served?

[Brady] I would say that it has served to increase Chile's capacity to carry out scientific and technical research studies. The CCHEN has not only contributed to developing the medical and agricultural sectors, but it has also attained the capacity for research studies and the technological level required to promote regional development. It must be understood that nuclear energy is not only used to produce belligerent weapons but more basically to promote national development. We use nuclear energy for medical purposes, such as producing radioisotopes to treat cancer and a number of other illnesses, sterilize surgical equipment, and for a number of other activities in which radioisotopes are used rather intensively. In the agricultural sector, nuclear energy helps to control pests, preserve food, select and improve the quality of seeds, and other uses. In the mining sector, nuclear energy is used to control flux and a number of other elements which facilitate the exploration and investigation of resources by reducing expenses and increasing effectiveness. In the industrial field, nuclear energy is used for many things, such as measuring fluids and finding faults or leaks in specific materials. This helps to save time and to increase costs [as published].

[Reporter] Based on what we have been saying, could we say that Chile uses nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes?

[Brady] Absolutely. We are certainly only using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Chile wants, and it has said this at all international forums, to preserve the Latin American Continent free from nuclear weapons. This is the government's policy, which I believe all the people support.

[Reporter] Is Chile concerned over the attitudes of countries that have not signed the Tlaltelolco Treaty which prohibits atomic weapons in Latin America?

[Brady] Yes, it concern us, of course, because we believe that the Tlaltelolco Treaty is a regional agreement that guarantees security through the prohibition of nuclear weapons but without the restrictions of the Nuclear Arms Nonproliferation Treaty. We have signed the Tlaltelolco Treaty and we will ratify it without reservations after all the Latin American countries have signed it.

[Reporter] Do you think that the expenses incurred by the CCHEN over the past 20 years are justified? Would it not have been better to use that money for other things?

[Brady] No. I think that the expenses are totally justified. Producing just radioisotopes for the medical, agricultural, and mining fields totally justifies the expenditure.

[Reporter] Do you think that in the nuclear field Chile has made considerable progress compared to other nations?

[Brady] Yes. In Latin America we reportedly occupy the fourth place after Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico.

[Reporter] Why was the Latin American meeting on public approval of nuclear energy held? Are there any problems in this field?

[Brady] You must not forget that unfortunately the nuclear bomb was created to destroy Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The people who do not understand nuclear energy and how it is used immediately think of an atomic bomb when nuclear energy is mentioned. In other words, there is a natural rejection. The purpose of the meeting was to analyze the measures that must be adopted at a regional level to familiarize the people with what nuclear energy and how it can help to attain development. An important conclusion was that the people must have more information about nuclear energy. Chile has provided quite an interesting experience in this field through lectures to youths, conferences, books, and publications on nuclear energy. Other countries conveyed various other experiences. It was agreed appropriate to disseminate more information about nuclear energy in order to make the people, particularly youths, aware of the truth about nuclear energy and its benefits.

NAVAL CHIEF SAYS ARGENTINE RELATIONS THAWING

PY140215 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2315 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 13 May (TELAM) -- Rear Admiral Fernando Camus, commander in chief of Chile's 3rd Naval Zone headquartered in Punta Arenas, has said that Argentina and Chile are promoting a growing thawing of their bilateral relations in the southern area, in the Beagle Channel Zone. The Navy officer pointed to the recent statements by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin on the mediation by Pope John Paul II over the Beagle dispute, and to the contacts that Navy officers of the two countries have made in the southern area. Rear Adm Camus stressed that the thawing of bilateral relations in the southern area is proven by the recent visit of Beagle Naval District Commander Juan Echeverria to Ushuaia. He said that Argentine Navy officers are likewise expected to visit Puerto Williams in the next few days, thus returning the Chilean visit.

POLICE PURSUE WEAPONS-SUPPLIER IN LARA CASE

PA121538 Paris AFP in Spanish 1510 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Bogota, 12 May (AFP) -- The Colombian Police today are in pursuit of a man known in the underworld as "El Ronco," after finding out that it was he who ordered the assassination of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara.

The investigators of Lara's murder, which took place in northern Bogota on 30 April, have captured two people who are also implicated in the homicide.

The names of the two who have been arrested -- in addition to Byron Velasquez, the assassin, who was wounded and arrested on the night of the murder -- were kept secret, so as not to hinder the investigations.

Velasquez is being held in the cells of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) under strict security. He was not sent to a prison in Bogota in order to prevent his "execution" by the drug-trafficking mafia.

According to the police, "El Ronco," a criminal with a throat ailment that causes him to have a "hoarse" voice, is known to have given the killers the weapons to kill the minister.

According to the police spokesmen, "the arrest of 'El Ronco,' whose real name is not known, will take place at any moment." They added that "this individual received his orders from the drug-trafficking ringleaders."

BUSINESS LEADER MURDERED IN KIDNAP ATTEMPT

PA111550 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpt] Jaime Ortiz Betancur, the president of the Uraba Chamber of Commerce, was murdered last night in Apartado during a thwarted kidnapping attempt. Two men took him hostage as he presided over a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and then fled in a car, taking the victim with them. When the kidnappers were intercepted by the police, they killed the business leader and fought the police.

Ortiz Betancur was an outstanding figure in the Uraba community and was the promoter of the Chamber of Commerce in that region. He was 55. Antioquia Governor Alberto Vasquez Restrepo deplored the businessman's tragic death and reiterated his call to the citizens for their solidarity in the fight against crime.

POLICE CRACK DOWN ON DRUG-LINKED PERSONNEL

PA111719 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 11 May 84

[Report by Jose Cervantes Angulo]

[Text] Barranquilla -- The Atlantico police command has reported that a total of 280 policemen of that police department have been dismissed in the past 2 weeks, after it was proven that they had links or were friendly with confirmed drug traffickers in Barranquilla.

Meanwhile, the 2d Brigade command has indicated that 680 drug traffickers are currently at large. Several on the names of the list belong to persons who are well known in the city and in the region, a military spokesman said. The paraphernalia, communications equipment, arms, and other property confiscated during the raids on houses and farms of well-known Barranquilla mafiosi will be shown to the press today.

SOPHISTICATED COCAINE LAB FOUND IN VICHADA

PA140324 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Bogota -- The complex discovered and dismantled by the national police in Vichada has been described as the world's most modern and sophisticated laboratory for the processing of cocaine.

The installations, which were located at the Amoruba cattle ranch, included two buildings, each dedicated to a specific stage in the process of converting coca paste into cocaine of the highest purity.

Considering the equipment found, weekly production has been estimated at from 1,200 kg to 1,500 kg. Each kilogram of cocaine is worth 120 million Colombian pesos on the U.S. black market, while the price in Colombia would be 1 million pesos.

PRO-CUBAN GUERRILLAS ATTACK GOLD MINE, TAKE GOLD

NC130742 Paris AFP in English 0633 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Bogota, May 13 (AFP) -- Six guerrillas from the pro-Cuban National Liberation Army attacked a gold mine and seized almost 90,000 dollars in gold, seven kgs (15 lbs), near the northwest town of Segovia, military sources said here. The incident was one of several clashes between guerrillas and the Army on Saturday.

Two members of the extreme-left M-19 organization were killed in the southern States of Cagueta and Huila. Meanwhile, in the southwest, guerrillas of the pro-communist Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia wounded two policemen and a civilian when they opened fire on a boat in the Telembi River, the sources said.

In the northeast region of Peija, near Venezuela, Army troops captured 24 National Liberation Army guerrillas. They seized 150 tons of marijuana in the same region.

PRIME MINISTER ON BORDER QUESTION WITH ECUADOR

PY121509 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 12 May 84

[Excerpts] The government today stated, through Prime Minister Sandro Mariategui, that the geographical boundary between Peru and Ecuador is legally established in the Rio Treaty. Sandro Mariategui made this statement after the cabinet meeting, referring to statements by Ecuadoran President-elect Leon Febres Cordero.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] has stated to the press that he will maintain the open wound with Peru.

[Mariategui] The so-called open wound is nothing else but the natural geographical boundary between Peru and Ecuador, legally established in the Rio Treaty and in the verdict of the Brazilian arbiter a few days ago. The Rio Treaty was ratified by the Peruvian and Ecuadoran Congresses. [end recording]

Navy Chief on Febres Remarks

PY120249 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2055 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpts] Lima, 11 May (EFE) -- The Peruvian Navy commander, Vice Admiral Ricardo Zevallos Newton, today said that the Peruvian Armed Forces are always alert and prepared.

Zevallos made this remark when asked about a statement by Ecuadoran President-elect Leon Febres, who claimed to be unaware of the Rio Treaty, which established border limits between the two countries in 1942.

Zevallos said he understood the issue of limits between Ecuador and Peru was part of Febres' electoral campaign but, he said, "it is one thing what a candidate says in an electoral campaign and another what he can accomplish in practice."

Zevallos today left for Genoa, Italy, where he will attend a meeting on defense. He made it clear that he is not going to purchase arms there.

Later, Zevallos will go to the United States on a friendship visit. He said that the Peruvian Navy maintains the best institutional relations with the U.S. and Italian Navies.

ARMY COMMANDER TO VISIT USSR, YUGOSLAVIA, GDR

PY120120 Paris AFP in Spanish 2138 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Lima, 11 May (AFP) -- It was officially announced in Lima today that Peruvian Army Commander General Julian Julia will depart for the USSR, Yugoslavia, and the GDR on Sunday at the invitation of the armies of those three countries.

General Julia will travel with top Army officers. During his visits Gen Julia will study the military industries and visit the main military training centers in the three countries.

MINISTER ON MEDIA DISTORTION OF TERRORISM

PY121820 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 12 May 84

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Luis Percovich Roca today said that the fact that some news media distort the news about terrorist subversion is an action that is against the interests of the country. In statements made after the cabinet meeting he also referred to recent terrorist attacks in the central part of the country.

[Begin Percovich recording] There have always been some terrorist attacks at certain places, such as those which took place in Huancayo last night, when the tourist hotel and the (Huaychulo) Hotel were attacked. This is a new method of the Shining Path, that of attacking tourist hotels, mainly those of the Peruvian National Tourist Enterprise, and those which are most frequented by tourists. I believe that the press should harshly condemn this on behalf of the public, because these attacks are aimed at economically harming the country by scaring away tourists and creating a situation that is unfavorable for the flow of foreign currencies into the country.

It is noticeable that some news media distort the news regarding subversion and other events related to acts of indiscipline. I believe that this kind of distortion of news regarding subversive action should deserve an explanation from that kind of media. Are they so poorly informed, are their sources of information so bad, or are they carrying out an action that is openly against the interests of the country? [end recording]

SHINING PATH RAIDS MINE, STEALS DYNAMITE, FOOD

PY101507 Paris AFP in Spanish 0356 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] Lima, 9 May (TELAM) -- Police sources reported today that one terrorist died and two policemen were wounded during an alleged Shining Path attack on an explosives depot of a mine in Huancavelica Department, from where they stole 100 cases of dynamite.

According to the police, some 30 hooded individuals armed with revolvers raided the Recuperada mine and after seizing the dynamite went on to loot the stores taking away foodstuffs. The terrorists then moved on to the neighboring hamlet of Huachocolpa, where they also plundered the stores there for foodstuffs. These events took place on Monday, but became known only today when the Huachocolpa mayor arrived in Huancavelica to report the attack.

GEN NORIEGA REASSERTS POSITION ON ELECTION

PA112025 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 May 84 pp 1, A 16

[Excerpts] The foreign correspondents who arrived in our country last weekend have been interviewing General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Defense Forces, in a continual search for information about the country's future. General Noriega's meetings with the journalists began in Soloy, Chiriqui Province, on Friday, 4 May, and have continued to date.

Various topics have been brought up in these interviews in which the position of the Defense Forces was reiterated by its commander.

"First, we fulfilled our duty, guaranteeing free elections; then, in accordance with the law, we have let the Electoral Tribunal and the National Vote Counting Board be the ones to finish the counting and proclaim the winner; then we will maintain order so that on 11 October, when the new government takes office, we will enter a low-profile period, while still safeguarding the country's order and security."

ELECTION RESULTS, CHALLENGES ON CIRCUIT MINUTES

List of Challenged Minutes

PA111907 Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 1630 GMT 11 May 84

[Report by Leonel Blazel, from the National Vote Counting Board headquarters -- live; monitored in progress]

[Text] ...were challenged by the Republican Party. The minutes corresponding to Circuits 4-6, of Gualaca, Chiriqui, 8-1, of Arraijan, and 8-2, of Capira, were challenged by the Authentic Panamenist Party. These are four of the minutes that are being challenged. The fifth minutes that have been challenged are the ones corresponding to Circuit 8-5, of Chorrera. These minutes were challenged by the Popular Broad Front Party. The sixth minutes that have been challenged are those of 10-1, of San Blas. These were challenged by the Authentic Panamenist Party and the PALA [Labor Party], which objected to the results of certain polling places contained in the circuit minutes. The seventh and eighth circuit minutes to be challenged are those of 10-2, also from San Blas, and 8-8, of Bella Vista, Pueblo Nuevo, Ancon, and Betania. These were challenged by the Panamenist Party. Minutes 3-1, Colon, were challenged by the Liberal Party. The tenth circuit minutes to be challenged correspond to circuit 1-1, of Bocas del Toro, in the Province of Bocas del Toro. These were challenged by the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement. The eleventh minute to be challenged were minutes 8-6, of San Miguelito, which were challenged in their totality by the traditionalist Liberal Party. According to the electoral registries, they contain 157,063 registered voters. It is presumed that approximately 92,000 voters cast their votes in this circuit. The twelfth minutes that are challenged are minutes 4-1, corresponding to the circuit of David, Chiriqui, and they challenged by the Panamenist Party. The thirteenth circuit minutes to be challenged correspond to Circuit 4-4, of Remedios, Chiriqui. They were challenged by the Christian Democratic Party. The fourtheenth minutes to be challenged correspond to circuit 9-2, of Sona, Veraguas Province. They were challenged by the Workers Socialist Party.

The fiftheenth minutes to be challenged correspond to circuit 4-3, Bugaba, Chiriqui. They were challenged by the Republican Party. The sixteenth and last minutes to be challenged correspond to circuit 6-2, of Pese, Herrera Province. These were challenged by the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement.

These minutes have been submitted to the Electoral Tribunal, and they are being reviewed in the Electoral Tribunal's meeting room. We are able to report that eight of these minutes have been challenged by the Democratic Opposition Alliance, seven have been challenged by the National Democratic Union, and one has been challenged by the Workers Socialist Party. That makes a total of sixteen minutes that have been challenged. So far, 24 circuit minutes have been read. This includes those that are free of challenges. They have been read and have gone through the auditing mechanisms. The final checking process is pending. Attention: Eight of those minutes have officially gone through the final checking process, with the participation of all the political parties represented on the National Vote Counting Board.

Therefore, after eight minutes have passed the final checking procedures, the latest results displayed on the blackboard of the National Vote Counting Board headquarters are: National Democratic Union 64,670 votes and Democratic Opposition Alliance, 59,647 votes. That is the total vote count including the tallies for Circuit minutes 8-3, 6-1, 2-2, 2-4, 6-3, 8-9, 2-1, and 2-3, which have gone through the third stage of the counting procedure, which is the checking process. The first two steps are the reading of the minutes and the auditing procedure. This is the latest report on the official electoral results.

Ardito Leading Unofficially

PA112015 [Editorial Report] Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 11 May carried the following unofficial election results for the 6 May presidential election:

Presidential Candidate	Party	Votes
Nicolas Ardito Barletta	National Democratic Union	276,307
Arnulfo Arias Madrid	Democratic Opposition Alliance	265,420

The report stated that these figures are based on results obtained from the tally sheets of 39 of the 40 Electoral Circuits, and that the only circuit not counted is that of San Miguelito District. According to this unofficial report, 666,000 Panamanians voted. This is approximately 73 to 74 percent of the voting population, which is estimated to be 917,677 voters according to the electoral registry.

UNADE Releases Figures

PA120315 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The National Democratic Union [UNADE] computerized figures give the UNADE a total of 319,671 votes throughout the Republic and 314,714 votes to the Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADO], a difference of 4,957 votes in favor of Nicolas Ardito Barletta.

A general report by provinces of the electoral process shows that of 917,677 electors, 716,671 went to the polls, 44.6 percent of whom voted for Ardito Barletta and 43.91 percent for Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid. The rest of the voters, 8.28 percent, voted for the other 5 presidential candidates who received a total of 64,000 votes. UNADE presidential candidate Ardito Barletta won in almost all provinces, except those of Bocas del Toro, Chiriqui, Colon, and Panama. This was a report released this afternoon by UNADE.

Opposition Claims Arias Victor

PA111747 Panama City YA in Spanish 11 May 84 p 8

[Communique issued by the Democratic Opposition Alliance; date and place not given; boldface as published]

[Text] The DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION ALLIANCE reiterates to the nation that, despite the scandalous electoral fraud and the shameful buying of votes to favor the government candidate, on 6 May the Panamanian people elected Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid as their president. The voting table tally sheets that the DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION ALLIANCE has in its possession indubitably demonstrate this. The advantage secured by Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid is of such a magnitude that it withstands and surpasses the allegedly unfavorable results from the remote regions where, rather than elections, there was a gross disregard of the popular will.

Unable to hide the reality of the victory obtained in the polls by the DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION ALLIANCE, the government candidate in the National Vote Counting Board. [sentence as published] In that electoral body, the government majority at the service of the government's candidate whimsically refuses to count the presidential votes on the basis of the tally sheets drawn up in each voting table and wants to consider only the rigged tally sheets issued by the Electoral Circuit Vote Counting Boards. Through arbitrary challenges, the results from a large number of voting tables where Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid had won by a broad margin have been maliciously eliminated in these spurious tally sheets. The justified fear of the government majority to use the individual tally sheets, which are the ones that are closest to the electoral truth, is irrefutable proof that it knows that Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid is the real winner in the elections.

The DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION ALLIANCE has tried by all possible means to reach an agreement with the representatives of the government candidate in order to speed up the presidential vote count so as to spare the country from the atmosphere of uncertainty that is the result of the irresponsibility of the government majority in the National Vote Counting Board. So far the efforts carried out for this purpose have been unsuccessful. The Tinajitas [military garrison] candidate does not want the counting of individual tally sheets, but of the fraudulent tally sheets prepared by the electoral circuit vote counting boards.

In view of the obvious ineffectiveness of the institutions and mechanisms established in the Constitution and the electoral code to guarantee the purity of the vote count, the DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION ALLIANCE announces to the public that at a ceremony open to the public and to which the diplomatic corps, the local and international press, the labor organizations, civic clubs, churches, and anyone who wants to attend will be invited, it will begin the count of the votes appearing in the tally sheets from each voting table, without excluding any, not even those that, being an accurate reflection of the most clumsy electoral fraud in the country's republican history, have been legitimately challenged by the DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION ALLIANCE.

Once this count is completed, the country will see confirmed its belief that without newspapers, radio stations, television stations, money, and tricks, the DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION ALLIANCE obtained the clear support of the majority of the Panamanian people in the 6 May elections, and that Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid was elected president of the Republic for the fourth time.

Arnulfo Arias Madrid, Ricardo Arias Calderon, Carlos T. Rodriguez

TRIBUNAL, BOARD OFFICIALS ON RESULTS, DELAYS

Results Next Week

PA112214 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2127 GMT 11 May 84

[By Mark Baillie]

[Excerpts] Panama City,11 May (LATIN-REUTER) -- Electoral officials today stated that the final results of the Panamanian presidential elections will not be announced until next week because of complaints of irregularities in the vote count by rival factions.

Opposition politicians said that it was expected that the results would give the victory to government candidate Nicolas Ardito Barletta, who is backed by the powerful National Guard, which has been controlling the political life of this country for the past 16 years.

Ismael Garcia, president of the electoral council in charge of supervising the count, said that an electoral tribunal would be formed to study the complaints after all the votes have been received. He added that so far they had counted the votes of 11 of the 40 Panamanian districts.

Challenged Votes to Tribunal

PA120012 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2235 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpts] Romulo Escobar Betancourt, Democratic Revolutionary Party representative to the Vote Counting Board, has proposed that the challenged election minutes be turned over to the Electoral Tribunal to tally them and that the Electoral Tribunal announce the winner of the 6 May elections.

Betancourt's proposal was submitted to a vote because the proposal made by Ismael Garcia, chairman of the Vote Counting Board, was not approved. Betancourt's proposal was approved with seven votes in favor, two opposed, and one abstention. The other officials [seven] simply did not vote. A short recess was declared after this vote.

Apparently the meeting has been recessed until tomorrow because we can see that everyone is leaving with their respective documents.

Counting Board Calls Recess

PA121530 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1504 GMT 12 May 84

[Report by Omaira de Leon]

[Text] We are at the headquarters of the National Vote Counting Board in the Justo Arosemena Legislative Palace to report that the National Vote Counting Board, which was scheduled to meet today to draw up the document on the vote count and on its deliberations and actions, however, in accordance with Decree No 8 of 5 January 1984 on Electoral Code regulations, the board has decided today to declare a recess until Monday at 0600, when its members will once again meet to draw up this document to report the details of the discussions here to the Electoral Tribunal. As everyone knows, yesterday, the board approved a resolution by a vote of eight for and two against, which was sent to the Electoral Tribunal and which stressed the board's inability to continue the counting, in view of the large number of challenges to the tally sheets it has received and has sent to the Electoral Tribunal.

Tribunal To Proclaim Winner

PA121816 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 12 May 84 pp 1 A, 8 A

[Resolution issued by the Panamanian National Vote Counting Board in Panama City on 11 May 1984]

[Text] The National Vote Counting Board, whereas:

1. This Board has counted 39 tallies from the Electoral Circuits Vote Counting Boards, 18 of which have been challenged or face appeals for annulment that were presented by this Board or by the Electoral Circuit Boards;

2. Among the tallies submitted to this Board is that corresponding to the Corregimiento of San Miguelito. It was submitted to this body without any figures, meaning that Circuit Board 8-6 did not tally the voting results of that circuit. In response to a query submitted by this Board to the Electoral Tribunal, we were notified that the National Vote Counting Board could not count the tally from Circuit 8-6 nor those from the individual polling stations in that circuit because of the appeal for annulment that is being processed by the Electoral Tribunal;

3. Due to these points, the National Vote Counting Board is legally unqualified to proclaim the president-elect and vice president-elect, because the total votes that have been challenged in the 18 Electoral Circuit tallies affect the results of the election;

Resolves:

1. To submit to the Electoral Tribunal the 39 tallies from the Electoral Circuits that this Board has counted. This Board hereby certifies that the tally corresponding to the Electoral Circuit of San Miguelito has already been submitted to the Electoral Tribunal.

2. To prepare a report attesting to the counting process, discussions, and proceedings at the National Vote Counting Board, in compliance with Decree No 8 of 5 January 1984 establishing the Electoral Code principles. This report will include:

A. The overall count of the 39 tallies from the Electoral Circuits that the National Vote Counting Board has counted since the beginning of its sessions on May 6. This count will include the total number of votes contained in the 39 tallies from the Electoral Circuits, including those that were challenged and those that were not.

B. The total number of votes for president and vice president contained in the tallies from the Electoral Circuits that are free of challenge.

C. The total number of votes for president and vice president contained in the tallies from the Electoral Circuits that, to the knowledge of this Board, have been challenged or have received appeals for annulment. The Electoral Tribunal will rule on these challenges and appeals for annulment after due verification of the figures against the tallies from the individual polling places in the Circuit in question.

3. We hereby certify that according to the tallies of the 39 Electoral Circuits that have been counted so far, there are polling places that were not tallied or included in the total vote count in the electoral circuit tallies. Therefore, the Electoral Tribunal will identify, count, and include those results in each corresponding circuit tally after verifying that those tallies were created in conformity with the requirements and formalities required by the law.

4. This Board hereby disqualifies itself from legally proceeding to proclaim the winners of the presidential and vice presidential election, in view of the fact that the votes contained in the 18 tallies from the Electoral Circuits that have been challenged affect the outcome of the election.

5. This Board hereby requests that the Electoral Tribunal, in accordance with the law, proceed, in the shortest possible time, with the actions entered against the tallies from the Vote Counting Boards of the Electoral Circuits and against their corresponding polling places, so that the exact number of valid votes for president and vice president of the Republic may be determined in accordance with the total number of votes that were cast and that are contained in the 39 tallies from the Electoral Circuits.

6. After the Electoral Tribunal has ruled on the challenges and has verified the tallies from the Electoral Circuits against the tallies from the individual polling places in the Circuits in question, it will proceed to proclaim the president and vice president who received the majority of the vote in the election on 6 May 1984.

Board Officials Interviewed

PA121737 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 May 84

[Interview with Ismael Garcia, chairman of the National Vote Counting Board of Panama, and Ulises Pitti, Garcia's alternate, by unidentified reporters at the Justo Arosemena Legislative Palace in Panama City -- live, monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] [Question] The 14 political parties were represented at the voting precincts. They also took part in the Circuit Electoral Boards, and are taking part in the National Vote Counting Board. What can you, as an individual who has taken part in several such events and as an honorable and impartial citizen, say about the continual participation of the political parties in each of these phases? And in view of this, why have we reached a point where the Electoral Tribunal will have to resolve all of these vote challenges before we can proclaim and present credentials to our next president?

[Garcia] There is no doubt that the system that the political parties themselves have approved is the cause of all of this restlessness and insecurity. I can offer you a curious fact: There are 135,758 contested votes, excluding those from the San Miguelito Corregimiento, which amount to some 90,000 more votes. It is impossible for such a great number of votes to be contested in an election. I have taken part in elections before and I have always tried in every way to ensure respect for the citizen's vote. When the political parties that are taking part in an election contest so many votes, it becomes a war of challenges. This kind of situation is unbearable. I do not want to criticize the parties, this is their right, but it is totally negative behavior, resulting in the situation we have seen. In my opinion, this has marred the process, which has been undeniably clean and accurate both during and after the election. However, the political parties themselves have tarnished the election's image.

[Question] Professor Garcia, had this decision to hand over to the Electoral Tribunal all tally sheets and all documents that have been challenged not been made, do you think that the work by the National Vote Counting Board would have taken much longer? If so, why?

[Garcia] Well, I don't think so, but the opposition -- that is, the Opposition Alliance -- insisted on forcing the National Vote Counting Board to recount the votes from each voting booth. That problem has been perfectly cleared up when I asked Electoral Tribunal President Magistrate Cesar Quintero to come here.

He told us that the National Vote Counting Board is not empowered to recount the votes from voting booths. The records from those booths had been sent as a reference, in case any problem should appear. Of course, the people are not aware of this. When I presided over the board for the plebiscite in which the constitutional amendments were approved, the tally sheets were not sent to the final Vote Counting Board. However, we had to resort to them because the records were plagued with simple mathematical errors in arriving at the totals recorded in the tally sheets.

That was for the plebiscite. But even today, some members of the board insist that we count some 5,000 plus tally sheets from the voting booths. This is contrary to our original duty, which was to review the 40 Electoral Circuit tally sheets and to resort to the voting booth records only when we had problems, if the figures don't coincide, if the figures are not the same. But if you ask them today, they would insist on doing just that, which the Electoral Tribunal...[Garcia changes thought] That is not their duty. All of these things have produced a truly regrettable situation. I feel very frustrated, because I have never before tackled a problem by delegating my responsibilities to someone else.

[Question] Was the proposal by Chong [People's Party representative] to challenge all of the other circuit tally sheets accepted by the leaders of the Vote Counting Board? To explain things to the public, what have you done to ensure that no tally sheet has been touched or altered? I ask this so that the people will clearly know what the function of the National Vote Counting Board is and so that there will be no doubts.

[Pitti] Can you repeat the first question?

[Question] How will Chong's proposal about challenging the rest of the circuit tally sheets that had not been challenged be received by the National Vote Counting Board?

[Pitti] The board's leadership has to receive this proposal, because the National Vote Counting Board's function is not to decide on a challenge, in this case, of all the circuit tally sheets. I repeat that the National Counting Board is not empowered to decide the merits of challenges. It is the Electoral Tribunal that must rule on them.

[Question] If the National Vote Counting Board had not made this decision, what do you think would have happened here when the discussions among the political parties' representatives grew heated and impassioned?

[Pitti] Look, this would have never ended. With the number of tally sheets that have been challenged, the National Vote Counting Board could not now make any proclamation. It is up to the Electoral Tribunal to rule on those challenges. It is not our job to examine the results tally sheet by tally sheet. The circuit counting boards had that job. We examined the circuit tally sheets and we had the power to examine any tally sheets that were not counted in the electoral circuits. Given that we were facing an endless situation and aware that it is the Electoral Tribunal that has the final decision, today we discussed the motion that was presented and we proceeded to vote on it. The leadership of the board believed that a decision on it had to be made and this is what was done.

[Reporter] Thank you, Dr Ulises Pitti, for your interesting remarks. We want to stress that there are no official figures on what political organization is leading in Sunday's elections. There are only unofficial figures, which give the National Democratic Union a slight lead.

Most Challenges To Be Rejected

PA132023 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 13 May 84 pp A1, A14

[Text] During the "The Voice of the Liberal Party" program aired on a Panama City radio station, Electoral Tribunal President Cesar Quintero emphatically told newsman Luis Estribi that most challenges presented by the various parties represented on the National Vote Counting Board would be rejected. Quintero was referring to those requests for annulment presented by various people, both from the opposition and from the National Democratic Union [UNADE]. He noted that those requests with sufficient merit will be discussed and studied very carefully, while those with no merit will be rejected.

This is because in many cases the opposition's lawyers made use of so-called "delaying tactics" to further retard the count of circuit tally sheets that were presented to the National Vote Counting Board, without supportive evidence, acting solely on the basis of the nullification option provided by the Electoral Code.

In addition, Quintero noted that the challenges presented by the opposition do not really favor the Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADO), which is led by three-time President Arnulfo Arias Madrid, because the tally sheets under discussion support Nicolas Ardito Barletta by more than 5,000 votes. This means that if the challenges are accepted, the UNADE candidate will maintain a 4,000 vote lead, while if they are rejected, he will have a lead of some 10,000 votes, either way will allow him to be proclaimed the new president of Panama.

ELECTION OFFICIAL ON REASONS FOR RESIGNATION

PA111645 Panama City YA in Spanish 11 May 84 pp 16, 2

[Letter addressed to Cesar Quintero, president of the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal, from Dr Felix Dormoi, member of the National Vote Counting Board, dated 10 May]

[Text] When the Electoral Tribunal surprised and honored me by appointing me a member of the National Vote Counting Board, I felt that this appointment responded to the fact that it is publicly known that I am not a member of any political party. However, my struggles and efforts as a professional in the medical field have been aimed at increasing our people's civic awareness.

The various sectors in the country can witness the fact that my radio and television appearances have always been within the framework of these civic principles, to the extent that on several occasions I have been harshly criticized by politicians who, exercising their right, disagree with my position on the civic and political behavior required of every citizen.

Therefore, as a member of the National Vote Counting Board, and consistent with the principles I have always defended, I feel it is an unavoidable duty at these critical and crucial moments for the future of our country to denounce and establish my position in regard to the current electoral process, which has included scandalous deeds such as the unnecessary challenge of polling centers as well as precincts.

The Panamanian people went to vote with enthusiasm and exemplary civic spirit in the hope that these would be clean elections and that the results would attest to it. However, it is unfortunate that the facts are proving otherwise.

I cannot endorse with my signature the results that will be contained in the document of that Board because I would be going against my conscience and that of a people who believed that their will, expressed at the polls, would be respected.

It is clear that the abuse of challenges began at the polling centers as a political tactic to delay the true results of the elections, to the extent that this political tactic proliferated scandalously and became, in the past few days, the reason for discord within the National Vote Counting Board. This challenge tactic, as stated by Electoral Tribunal President Cesar Quintero and National Vote Counting Board President Ismael Garcia, is the factor that has obstructed the mission of proclaiming the presidential and vice presidential candidates who won.

For these reasons, I have had to resort to the painful decision of submitting my irrevocable resignation. At the same time I thank the Tribunal for the confidence given me.

With highest consideration and affection,

[Dr Felix A. Dormoi B.

Cedula No 8-67-8

ARDITO BARLETTA ON 'RECONCILIATION' GOVERNMENT

PA130341 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 May 84

[Interview with National Democratic Union, UNADE, candidate Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta by an unidentified reporter]

[Excerpt] Continuing his open-door policy to the communications media, Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta last night analyzed current events and his government plans.

[Begin recording] [Ardito Barletta -- in progress] ...contacts to avoid acts of violence. I want to reiterate firmly my determination, as revealed in the last week of the campaign, to become the president of all Panamanians. I will make every effort to achieve a national reconciliation and the highest degree of consensus on national objectives.

The high vote percentage received by the Democratic Opposition Alliance, ADO, means that many Panamanians have different ideas than ours. We are going to listen to them, and we will incorporate their ideas into our work plans.

[Reporter] Does that include the Authentic Panamenists Dr Ardito Barletta?

[Ardito Barletta] Perhaps, depending on the dialogues and talks we will have in the future. I repeat, I want to be the president of all Panamanians. I want to conduct myself with the equanimity, patriotism, and integrity expected of me by all Panamanians.

[Reporter] What do you mean by a government of national reconciliation?

[Ardito Barletta] I mean precisely that. In order to strengthen the democracy we are just starting, we will invite all capable Panamanians to help us in a number of government programs. I will also invite them to participate with us in government action. Of course, my first commitment is to the National Democratic Union and the parties that comprise it. However, taking into consideration the fact that nearly half the voters did not favor us, but [ADO candidate] Dr Arnulfo Arias, we are going to seriously consider their aspirations, viewpoints, and recommendations in order to reconcile ourselves and achieve the national objectives that will permit us to come out of the crisis that is affecting us all, which is the aspiration of the Panamanian people. [end recording]

DENI CHIEF REPORTS ON SHOTS FIRED AT ARIAS' HOME

PA112235 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 May 84

[From the "Valdes at 10" Program]

[Text] Major Nivaldo Madrinan Aponte, general director of DENI [National Department of Investigation], announced today that, in connection with a report published in a local newspaper on shots fired by unidentified men at the home of Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, DENI detectives and officials of the Auxiliary Prosecutor's Office conducted a thorough inspection of the entire residential area and nearby places, but neither spent cartridges nor any other evidence that shots had been fired was found. Furthermore, the investigations determined that it is technically impossible to stage an attempt at a distance of 200 or 300 meters using a .38-cal or .45-cal weapon. In addition, the license plate described by Dr Arias' chief of security was checked, and it was confirmed that such a license plate does not exist, that Panama Municipality does not include such numbers on the license plate it issues each year.

Dr Arias' security personnel testified in this connection and showed the authorities three different places where shots from firearms were heard. One of these places is 200 meters away from the house, the others are 300 and 500 meters away.

ADO CALLS FOR CIVIC MARCH AGAINST 'FRAUD'

PA111444 Panama City LA PRENSA in English 11 May 84 p 1A

[Text] At the closing time for this edition, the Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADO) announced that a civic march will depart at 1500 today from ADO's headquarters on Balboa Avenue and to to the Electoral Tribunal's offices, in order to "defend the opposition's votes from the government's attempts electoral fraud." The ADO believes that all citizens who demand respect for democracy should participate in this great civic march.

'POOR' WOMEN TO COUNTER ADO DEMONSTRATION

PA111846 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1803 GMT 11 May 84

[Report by Omaira de Leon]

[Text] A short while, ago, it was reported that women of poor neighborhoods of Panama City -- Curundu, Chorillo, Santa Ana, and other poor neighborhoods, including San Miguelito and others on the outskirts of the city -- will stage a demonstration this afternoon to face the one organized by women who are members of parties that make up the Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADO]. These poor women who are staging this demonstration are asking themselves what right do those [ADO] women -- who only tour the streets of Panama City in their beautiful, big, and modern cars -- have to go into the streets to demand the speeding up of the vote count. Those [ADO] women never take to the streets, not even to go shopping.

These poor women, who struggle side by side with their husbands, will go to the streets this afternoon to face the demonstration of high-hats who will take to the streets supposedly to protest the delay in the vote count.

COSTA RICAN, NICARAGUAN MINISTERS TO MEET

PA130348 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] The foreign ministers of Costa Rica and Nicaragua will meet Monday in Panama in an effort to find solutions to the bilateral problems between the two nations. According to reports, Costa Rica's Carlos Jose Gutierrez and Nicaragua's Miguel D'Escoto have agreed to meet on neutral ground and in the presence of one member of the Contadora Group to settle the problems affecting the two governments in the past weeks. The choice of Panama as the site of the meeting was promoted by Panamanian Foreign Minister Oyden Ortega, who will act as guarantor to the two ministers and the mediators for the possible settlement of differences. The poor relations between the San Jose and Managua governments began as a result of the occupation of the port of San Juan del Norte by forces of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, headed by Eden Pastora. The port is located on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua.

BELIZE

DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH GREAT BRITAIN

FL111206 Bridgetown CANA in English 2227 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, May 10 (CANA) -- Belize and Britain today signed an agreement under which the Central American country will receive six million pounds sterling for airport and other infrastructural development. The money is in the form of a 25 year interest free loan and is the second tranche of a 12 million pound sterling package agreed between the two governments when Belize gained independence in September 1981.

COSTA RICA

NEW PROTEST SENT TO NICARAGUA ON 3 MAY ATTACK

PA111957 Paris AFP in Spanish 1856 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] San Jose, 10 May [date as received] (AFP) -- The Costa Rican Government today once again protested to Nicaragua over an armed attack against the border post of Penas Blancas, 300 km northwest of San Jose, on 3 May. Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez sent a note to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, stating that it was an "aggression by the Sandinist People's Army" against Costa Rican territory. The note added that it is "one more of the aggressions that the Costa Rican Government and people have been patiently enduring." The Costa Rican police responded that day to the fire from Nicaragua. There were no casualties.

The Sandinist government denied that it had attacked Costa Rican territory and indicated that it was a "self-attack" staged by Costa Rican police. That story was also rejected by Foreign Minister Gutierrez, who said that it was based "on a report by the Nicaraguan authorities that is groundless and totally removed from the truth."

Gutierrez announced that on Sunday in Panama City the deputy foreign ministers of the Contadora Group -- Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama -- will meet to analyze relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua and to make efforts toward a meeting of the foreign ministers of the two nations.

ALLEGED REQUEST FOR U.S. MILITARY AID DISCUSSED

Monge Denies Request

PA122029 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] All of the passion that goes into an electoral campaign, many of the statements that are made and the actions that are undertaken have a purpose inside the country in question, but often do not take into account the negative effects they may have abroad -- in Costa Rica, in this particular case. This was stated by Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge in reference to an article published in THE WASHINGTON POST. The article reports on the military aid that Costa Rica has allegedly requested from Washington. However, it is not true that Costa Rica is asking the United States for military aid. The article is unfavorable to Costa Rica, the United States and its government, and to President Reagan, who is necessarily involved in politics. THE NEW YORK TIMES [as heard] article must be seen as part of a political strategy, and it is possible that there will be many more such articles between now and November. They will damage Costa Rica, President Monge said.

THE WASHINGTON POST report is based on a draft memorandum presumably prepared by a junior official, which was not considered by State Department authorities. The memorandum was nonetheless revealed, and even though it was not accepted it has been used as the source for the assertions contained in this U.S. newspaper.

I am referring only to this article; the Reagan administration has never pressured me or made insinuations as to how I should handle Costa Rica's foreign policy, particularly toward Nicaragua, President Monge said. We have conducted our foreign policy in a sovereign way and in accordance with what we believe is in Costa Rica's best interests and responds best to our concerned desire to ensure that Costa Rica is never dragged into the tragedy of war. We act to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of Costa Rica, without falling into the trap of a military escalation based on emotional outbursts, which is what some sectors in Costa Rica are preaching, the president added.

This much publicized aid is for our Civil Guard. We have said this many times, Monge stated. It does not include war materiel per se. It consists of vehicles, uniforms, and radios that will be used by our police. We have repeatedly indicated that we asked for this aid at the outset of our term in office. However, there was a delay. The fact that the aid is arriving now does not imply that it will be used for war, President Monge noted. Costa Rica conducts its war with legal means and at the international level, not with arms or war materiel, he concluded.

Gutierrez Explains Aid

PA122223 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The document published by THE WASHINGTON POST on U.S. Government assistance to Costa Rica's acceptance of military equipment does not reflect the Costa Rican Government's official policy, said Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez. Although the foreign minister said he had not read the full text of the document, he did say that in view of the statements made by the State Department in Washington, the published document was evidently a working paper prepared by lower ranking officials as an alternative. He added that the document [words indistinct] for ranking State Department officials, but is rather a document dealing with U.S. Government policy.

As to the Costa Rican Government's request for military aid from the United States, Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez admitted having made such a request, but explained that the military aid involved consisted of transportation and radio communications equipment, and a very small number of police weapons and other small arms.

The chief of Costa Rican foreign policy said that Costa Rica does not intend -- nor has the U.S. Government requested it -- to change its neutrality policy, and will remain aloof from any conflicts in the region.

Last week, the foreign minister continued, Costa Rica asked for additional emergency aid from the United States, in view of the increased incidents with Nicaragua and in order to bolster its defense capacity. Basically, this aid consisted of patrol launches, transportation equipment, fast launches, small arms, and radio communications equipment. It is not yet known when this aid will arrive. It will be worth $7.6 million and will be in addition to the aid already requested through an agreement signed in 1981 for aid during 1984 and 1985, Gutierrez explained.

PRESIDENT MONGE REAFFIRMS NEUTRALITY POLICY

PA132250 Paris AFP in Spanish 1646 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] San Jose, 13 May (AFP) -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge today said that there are some interests "that are instigating war" and reaffirmed that his government will continue to defend the principle of neutrality. "I know that there are forces that want to see us become involved in the conflicts that are unfortunately being suffered by our Central American brothers," said the president in a speech delivered in a neighborhood of San Jose. He added: "However, we have officially proclaimed neutrality in the conflicts of other states."

He said that Costa Rica does not have to get involved in the fighting, emphasizing that his country does not have an army and that "we do everything in our power to prevent our territory from being used in the fighting." Nevertheless, it is "not true that we are weak or fainthearted in the face of aggression against our territory and our sovereignty," said Monge in reference to the latest incidents on the border with Nicaragua.

The president insisted that "we do not get involved because we must not get involved in the war that is damaging Central America." "I do not understand the criticism being leveled against me, accusing me of weakness toward the Nicaraguan Government, toward the violations of our border," he said.

Nevertheless, this week Costa Rica asked the United States for $7.6 million in "emergency" military aid, in addition to a previous request for one-third of this amount.

The relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua have been affected in the last few days by a series of border incidents that resulted in an exchange of protest notes. Costa Rica is claiming violations of its sovereignty, while Nicaragua has said that anti-Sandinist groups are using Costa Rican territory to act against Nicaragua.

It has been announced that a meeting between the two foreign ministers will be held in Panama on Monday, due to the danger that these differences might culminate in a suspension of relations, and in order to resolve the problems by peaceful means.

NICARAGUA CHARGES OFFICIAL LINKED WITH ARDE

PA131422 Paris AFP in Spanish 2152 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] San Jose, 11 May (AFP) -- Documents from secret Costa Rican organizations, which were circulated by the Nicaraguan Government at the United Nations this week and delivered to Costa Rican authorities in San Jose, link a ranking official with the Nicaraguan anti-Sandinist Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, and provide evidence of that organization's activities in Costa Rican territory. Copies of the documents, which were kept secret until now, were obtained by AFP today.

Nicaragua presented them as evidence that Costa Rica's neutrality toward regional military conflicts, which was proclaimed by President Luis Alberto Monge last November, is being violated, with the complicity of some ranking government officials. The documents presented by the Nicaraguans in support of their claims may implicate Deputy Government Minister Enrique Chacon in actions carried out by ARDE, a group led by former Nicaraguan Deputy Defense Minister Eden Pastora.

A memorandum, No 0396 from Major [words indistinct] Jara Castro to Deputy Minister Chacon and dated 24 February 1983, informed Chacon that his orders to return to its owners a mobile transmitter that operated on a clandestine frequency had been obeyed. "Last night," the document by Maj Jara read, "I received a telephone call from an esteemed individual asking that the pickup truck with license plate CL-81171, which contained the mobile transmitting equipment, be given to Mr Carlos Maturana Marquez, a Nicaraguan, which was done at 1930 yesterday." According to the Nicaraguan authorities' charges, Maturana is reportedly involved in ARDE's activities.

In another document, Lieutenant Colonel Rodrigo Rivera, commander of the Civil Guard Northern Command, informed his superior, Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano, that the attack on Nicaraguan positions at the border post of Penas Blancas that was carried on 31 July 1983 originated from Costa Rican territory. While inspecting the site on the following day, Costa Rican authorities found 4 FAL magazines with 34 rounds and an empty M-16 magazine, the communique read.

A third document, from the National Intelligence and Security Directorate (DIS), dated 8 August and numbered SDSN 157, provides details as to how Miguel Bolanos Hunter, who hijacked an aircraft belonging to the Nicaraguan Airline ALAS and took it to Costa Rica, was released by the authorities, despite having been arraigned by the courts. Following his release on 24 May 1983, Bolanos left the country on a private flight for Tegucigalpa, accompanied by Mangis Roy Jonh [name as received], a North American with diplomatic passport Z-149883, according to the DIS report.

There are also two statements given last August in the offices of the Civil Guard command in the city of Liberia, 220 km north of San Jose, in which Eulalio Pastrana and Pablo Jose Calderon Rodriguez charge that a camp of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries is present on the Hacienda Pelon de la Altura in that region.

All of these documents were accompanied by an appendix providing a detailed account of various activities carried out by the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries on Costa Rican territory. Deputy Minister Chacon is again implicated in those activities, and the addresses of several houses in Costa Rica at which the counterrevolutionary groups meet, store food, and run small hospitals are given.

Finally, the appendix charges that ARDE has various equipment in Costa Rica, including light planes, communications equipment, and a landing strip.

EL SALVADOR

ELECTORAL COUNCIL REPORTS ELECTION RESULTS

PDC Maintaining Lead

PA111820 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1742 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] From the international fairgrounds in San Salvador, the Central Electoral Council [CCE] is again addressing the Salvadoran people to report the results of the final vote count of the 6 May elections. The CCE has worked very hard and very responsibly to prepare the final report on the run-off elections that is going to consolidate the victory of one of the two contending parties that participated in the 6 May elections. So far, we have obtained the data from 12 departments, and only Usulutan and La Union Departments are pending. The votes from Usulutan are being counted here at the international fairgrounds at the same time we make this announcement, and we will then start with the votes from La Union Department, which should take us about 1 and 1/2 hours.

Thus far, the results are: The Nationalist Republican Alliance had obtained 581,222 valid votes as of 0910 today from the 12 departments tallied. This represents 45.66 percent of the votes. The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] had obtained 691,529 valid votes, which represents 54.33 percent of the votes.

At that time, only the votes from Usulutan and La Union Departments remained to be counted. The total number of valid votes counted is 1,272,751 votes. The number of ballot boxes counted is 4,788, which is 84.47 percent of all the ballot boxes that were used throughout the country. Only 1 ballot box has been challenged. Up to the time of this broadcast, the figures obtained were in favor of the PDC to the tune of 110,307 valid votes.

This has been report from the CCE regarding the legal and definitive vote count that the CCE is carrying out at the international fairgrounds. We would also like to take advantage of this opportunity to inform the people that the vote counting will be completed at approximately 1400, and our computer center will have information for the entire public at 1500 today.

The CCE will immediately begin preparing the documents needed to notify the contending political parties, and late this afternoon all the people will know the identity of the man who is going to handle the reins of our country for the next 5 years. Thank you for listening to us.

Duarte Proclaimed Winner

PA112326 Paris AFP in Spanish 2302 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] San Salvador, 11 May (AFP) -- The Central Electoral Council, CCE, has officially announced that Christian Democrat Napoleon Duarte has won the presidential election in El Salvador. At the end of the vote counting in the counting in the country's 14 departments, and 72 hours [as received] after the elections closed last Sunday, the CCE has reported that the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, attained 53.37 percent of all votes cast.

The other party, the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, that put forward former Major Roberto D'Abuisson, attained 46.43 percent of all votes cast, it has been reported. The final figures were as follows: PDC 794,914 votes, which represents 53.57 percent of the total; ARENA 650,005 votes, which represents 46.43 percent of all votes cast, a difference of 144,909 votes.

Duarte will assume office as the new president on 1 June. Alvaro Magana is the current provisional president.

CCE News Conference

PA120350 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2358 GMT 11 May 84

[News conference by Armando Rodriguez Eguizabal, president of the Central Electoral Council, CCE, and other election officials; questioners not identified; place not given; all numbers as heard; in progress -- live]

[Excerpts] [Rodriguez] ... before we announced the official results of the count we wish to note at this moment that, if we compare the figures of 25 March with those of 6 May, there was an increase in the overall balloting. In the 25 March elections we had 1,266,276 valid votes compared to 1,404,366 valid votes [in the 6 May elections], that is, the valid votes increased by more than 100,000. This means, gentlemen, that there was greater awareness among the people, as we said before, in the second round, because some people abstain from voting when their party is not running. However, we have seen how the people's awareness has grown, which speaks highly of the Salvadoran people.

I also wish to point out an interesting fact. Null votes decreased in this election. There were 104,557 null votes in the 25 March elections, and in this election voters cast only 80,000 null votes. Regarding the abstention, 41,726 persons cast blank votes (?thus abstaining) on 25 March, and this time abstentions dropped to 32,572 votes. Impugnations of votes remained the same on the average. A total of 9,201 ballots were lost in the previous election, compared to 2,613 in this election. The lost votes are normally the votes which are taken by the citizen in order to vote, but instead of placing it in the box he or she keeps it as a momento or otherwise.

Total results in the 6 May elections throughout the country were as follows:

Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA]	651,741 votes
Christian Democratic Party [PCD]	752,625 votes

This represents 53.59 percent for for the PCD and 46.40 for ARENA [percentages as heard]. I also wish to report that this time there were fewer ballot boxes or vote receiving boards as determined in the analyses made the last time and that we had 5,448 ballot boxes in which votes were cast and 222 in which no votes were cast. These include those which were annulled for one reason or another. Finally, I wish to report that some of the 222 ballot boxes at which no votes were received were located in places which have been totally abandoned by the people because of the harassment by guerrillas. These people have emigrated and taken refuge in other municipalities. We have determined from the lists that the municipalities in which there was no balloting totalled 39. This does not mean that the people of these municipalities did not vote, because they voted through the system of national, departmental, and regional ballot boxes.

Finally, I wish to state that we, as a council, must report this on the basis of the vote count report so that, once the 3 corresponding days have elapsed, it will be valid. We will then take all legal steps to deliver to the winner of the elections, engineer Duarte, [word indistinct] the proper credential and to Mr Claramount his proper credential, too. Thank you.

[Question] Dr Rodriguez, regarding the talk about some impugnations on the part of ARENA, has the Central Electoral Council received such impugnations?

[Rodriguez] We have received no impugnations regarding the elections thus far. Furthermore, I had overlooked this matter, and I will take this opportunity to discuss the impugnations. I wish to say that those boxes which have inconvenienced you contain the 60,000 ballots that were declared null by the CCE before the election. They have been under the custody of the Council so they could not be used.

[Unidentified speaker] Pardon, pardon. I want to expand a bit more on the explanations given by the president of the CCE with regard to the difference in the number of votes in this election, or second round, as we generally call them, in the sense that it is not defined on the basis a percentage but on the basis of the number of votes. The difference between the winning party, the PDC, and the losing party, ARENA, is 100,884 votes.

[Question] Secondly, what concrete information is there regarding ARENA's assertion that 54 ballot boxes were burned on 6 May in Soyapango municipality?

[Unidentified speaker] To answer your question about the ballot boxes that were reportedly burned, the CCE has already processed the records corresponding to those ballot boxes. We also have the material which is signed and received by the vote receiving boards. Therefore, we can corroborate the falsehood of the rumor which has been disseminated to the effect that some ballot boxes were burned in the municipality already mentioned.

[Question] I would like Dr (Hernandez) [not further identified] to answer this question, which is of a legal nature. ARENA has said that it will not impugn the elections but that it will impugn the vote tally, that is, the count made by you. I would like to know if there is any legal basis to do this.

[(Hernandez)] Indeed, the contending parties have a remedy they can exercise at the proper time, which is within 3 days after the contending parties receive notice of the official vote count results, as Mr Meza [Roberto Meza, CCE member for PDC] has just said.

[Question indistinct]

[Unidentified speaker] Regarding the Armed Forces, we can state that, generally speaking, the Armed Forces cooperated fully with the distribution and gave great logistical support to the CCE. The high command was always prepared, and the general staff was conscious of the cooperation the CCE had requested from them. There were only a few minor difficulties in some towns. Some involved possible misunderstandings among some members, officers perhaps, of the Armed Forces in the interior of the country.

[Question] Were the 60,000 ballots the ones which had an error in the numbering [words indistinct]

[Unidentified speaker] Indeed. In this regard, the CCE decided not to use them in the election because the information of both ARENA and the printing shop that printed them was known by the CCE in advance. [Words indistinct] that no ballots were lost at any time. Any claim that the ballots were stolen and that they were [word indistinct] or used in the balloting is false.

ARENA: INTERVENTION INVALIDATES ELECTION

PA112134 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpts] So far, and according to official reports from the Central Electoral Council [CCE], the CCE has voting figures for 12 municipalities, is now working on the computation of Usulutan Department results, and will then proceed to compute La Union Department.

However, the political parties, particularly the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, have expressed opposition to this process and continue to accuse the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] of being closely linked with the CIA. Let's listen to ARENA vice presidential candidate Hugo Cesar Barrera:

[Begin recording] [Barrera] The true winner of these elections is the CIA and not the PDC. The CIA, which invested more than 10 million colones here, has been the one to benefit. This is a direct intervention. How many votes would the PDC have obtained without the intervention by the CIA and the U.S. State Department? They probably wouldn't have gotten 300,000 votes. Consequently, in our opinion, under these conditions these elections have no value. This has been a complete deception of the Salvadoran people. The CIA scheme, or better yet the PDC scheme, was based on the intervention of organizations from another country in our internal affairs. The CIA has been running the CCE. It programmed the computer. We feel that the elections have no credibility. The results are a total farce and have no value, and those who wound up being deceived were the Salvadoran people. They voted, encouraged by all kinds of lies and stories prepared and manipulated by the CIA.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you going to challenge the elections in the period granted by the law?

[Barrera] The period to challenge the elections is over, but this affects internal concepts, any problem which may arise internally, and the factors we question are completely outside the law. We must not allow an intelligence organization of another state to manipulate our elections. Therefore, we feel that the CCE -- if it is an organization made up of wise people who feel they are true Salvadorans and are intelligent enough -- should make a decision honestly aimed at guaranteeing the right of Salvadorans to vote and elect their own rulers, according to their own criteria and not manipulated by organizations of other states.

[Reporter] What will be the specific ARENA stand if the CCE and the Attorney General's Office proclaim the PDC as the winner? What would happen if the Armed Forces back the CCE in this regard?

[Barrera] We, ARENA, have won the elections. Our position is that we will not accept what the CCE is doing. This vote count and the elections are not valid because there was an intervention which was clearly established. The CIA has even admitted this to the Senate Intelligence Committee.

[Reporter] What will be done in this situation?

[Barrera] I truly don't know what they will do. We will do what is proper, and we are working on that.

[Reporter] Will you challenge the elections or, even if you reject the results, will you join the process if Duarte becomes president?

[Barrera] We cannot join anything that is illegal. [end recording]

Duarte on ARENA Charges

PA112215 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 May 84

[Report by Nelson Lopez]

[Excerpts] We contacted PDC [Christian Democratic Party] presidential candidate Duarte with regard to remarks by Hugo Barrera, vice presidential candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] , that his party opposes the process and the results.

[Begin recording] [Duarte] I believe we must begin by telling the Salvadoran people that all this is a process of destabilization. They are trying to make illegitimate the electoral process and the government we intend to begin in June. This is a strategy that the Salvadorans must ignore. What they are doing is dangerous. In fact, it is treason. All they are doing is helping the guerrillas, creating uncertainty, and destroying the country's basis for peace.

I think that the media must not allow them to carry out their scheme, because they are betraying the Salvadorans. In this regard, I feel sad when I see Salvadorans who don't understand what is going on or how much our country has suffered. Well, you can witness how these gentlemen first called us communists and now they are saying that we are with the CIA.

D'Aubuisson yesterday said that the CIA had given us assistance so that we would work with the FDR and the FMLN, because we are communists. They claim that Russia is helping us on the one side and the United States on the other. In other words, they are so confused, or want to confuse the people so much, that they have reached these extremes. So I tell the Salvadoran people not to pay any attention to them. The process of destabilization they are promoting should not exist. But we are firm. We have won the elections. We will assume office. We will get the credentials next week.

We will be the people's government in order to begin doing the things this country needs. I think this is important. What I think is important is for all Salvadorans to understand that the prople's decision was made and that we are going to be the rulers. They should note that we are not vengeful. We will not seek revenge. We are people who open our minds and hearts so that all sectors will join the country's democratic process.

[Lopez] ARENA opposes these results. It has stated that it will remain opposed to it. It has called the elections a fraud. Will the ARENA position somehow prevent the consolidation of your government?

[Duarte] I think ARENA insists on destabilizing the country. This is a reality. The Salvadoran people are going to have to help me stabilize the country and settle down these madmen who are trying to destabilize the country. They are doing this type of senseless thing. They will continue to try to keep the people under tension. They have even talked about the fact that they are going to ask for new elections. They are crazy. That is impossible. No one will accept that, much less me or the people.

So, all I am asking is for the people to help me face all these problems and destabilize the machinery they created which is based on death squads and destabilizing groups. They are even trying to involve the Armed Forces. In sum, they have a scheme which I am sure we will know how to handle. I am also certain that we will know how to govern our country.

PDC, AD SIGN 'POLITICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT'

PA120408 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0016 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] San Salvador, 11 May (ACAN-EFE) -- According to its leaders, the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], winner of the Salvadoran presidential elections, this afternoon signed a "political cooperation agreement" with the Democratic Action Party, AD, whose objective it is "to consolidate the democratic system."

During a press conference, AD and PDC Secretaries General Rene Fortin Magana and Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes signed the document in the presence of PDC presidential and vice presidential candidates Jose Napoleon Duarte and Rodolfo Castillo Claramont. According to the document, the two political organizations, after analyzing the current national situation, deem it necessary that the new government, which is to be installed on 1 June, "have a broad, solid, democratic basis that will allow the new government to carry out an efficient administration." The agreement includes the joining of forces to defend democratic institutionality "against all forceful efforts to oppose genuine authorities elected as a result of legitimate elections."

The parties signing the agreement have admitted that the achievement of peace is the single most important objective of the future government and that "the serious existing difficulties can be overcome only when all sectors relinquish their sectarian stances and a rational stance is assumed that will allow political space for all." The document added that the defense and protection of human rights requires a determined and vigorous action to stop, particularly, the actions of groups who violate these human rights, thereby creating a climate of terror for the people. In the political agreement, PDC and AD commit themselves to make all possible efforts so that the new government can strengthen the legal system to administer justice in a fast, efficient manner as the most suitable means to preserve constitutional order.

The document also stipulates that efforts will be made toward economic recovery, "which is possible only through the combined effort of all Salvadorans by the harmonization of both public and private sectors."

It was also included in the agreement that the two signing parties will maintain their respective ideological and political principles. In addition, the two parties will be able to act independently in future electoral processes.

The document also states that the candidate who emerges the winner in run-off elections for president "will organize his government with a high national sense, without any party exclusiveness. The new government may give preference to the members of the signing parties, as well as those from other democratic political parties legally organized."

BUSINESS GROUP CONDEMNS ELECTORAL 'INTERVENTION'

PA131634 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0144 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] San Salvador, 11 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The most important business organizations in El Salvador tonight announced that "given the factors of foreign interference and arbitrariness on the part of the Electoral Council, it will never be possible to know the real results of the presidential elections" held last Sunday.

The Central Electoral Council [CCE] proclaimed Christian Democrat Jose Napoleon Duarte -- who gained 53.39 percent of the votes, compared to the 46.40 percent obtained by his rival, Roberto D'Aubuisson of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) -- president-elect this afternoon.

In a communique, the Salvadoran Productive Alliance, which represents seven business organizations, says that although the people "gave an exemplary demonstration of civic conduct, it is to be lamented that this page of honor did not receive the respect it deserved."

Although the Salvadoran Productive Alliance has denied links with ARENA on repeated occasions, it has always been opposed to the Christian Democratic Party, which it has even labeled "communist."

In the communique, the private enterprise group states that "the lack of seriousness and the arrogant attitudes of some members of the CCE, along with the actions of associated organizations, subjected the process to a plague of arbitrariness, flaws, and omissions, as if obeying a specific purpose." It adds that "the condemnable attitude of the Republic's authorities in permitting clearly overt interventionist activities within the electoral process constitutes a grotesque mockery and an insult to the electoral process."

The Salvadoran Productive Alliance claims that such intervention involved organizations such as the Venezuelan Popular Education Institute (IVEPO), the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of West Germany. According to the alliance, these organizations "used money to manipulate the weight of the balance with actions that were specified in important U.S. newspapers and that warrant a serious investigation by the Legislative Assembly."

It adds that "despite this shady historical event, the results of the elections define the existence of two ideologically balanced political forces, without the absolute predominance of one over the other, a fact that does not permit either to consider itself invested with absolute power."

Duarte today declared that private enterprise plays a significant role in the country's democratization process.

GUERRILLAS OCCUPYING SUPERMARKET LEAVE FOR MEXICO

PA121706 Paris AFP in Spanish 1640 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] San Salvador, 12 May (AFP) -- The five Salvadoran guerrillas who took asylum at the Mexican Embassy this morning, after occupying a supermarket and holding 73 persons hostage, left for Mexico today. The five members of the "Clara Elizabeth Ramirez Metrolopolitan Front," a dissident faction of the clandestine People's Liberation Forces, left aboard a Salvadoran airlines flight for that capital, an immigration official has confirmed.

However, there has been no official report of their departure and the Mexican Embassy has refused to provide any information on the subject.

FPL Denies Involvement

PA130231 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] Attention, Salvadoran people: We hereby declare before our people that the People's Liberation Forces, FPL, a member of the FMLN, took no part whatsoever in the actions that occurred last night at the Tiempo supermarket in San Salvador. None of our guerrilla members has participated in such an action.

Venceremos on Incident

PA131727 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] On Friday night, an urban guerrilla group consisting of five youths went to the El Tiempo supermarket in San Salvador, held approximately 76 people hostage, and made several demands of the regime. The revolutionaries demanded that the dictatorship immediately withdraw a threatening military cordon on streets near the supermarket, bring members of the International Red Cross to the site of the incident, and issue safe-conducts for the revolutionaries to go to Mexico. After staying in the supermarket for 10 hours, the urban guerrillas, whose ages ranged between 18 and 23, had all of their demands met.

Several of the people held hostage by the guerrilla group said that they had been treated well. This contrasted with the attitude of a police officer who threatened to force his way into the supermarket with his troops, thus endangering the lives of more than 70 people. The threatening remarks by this police officer were aired by a local radio station that carried a report from the site of the incident.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA VIEWS HELICOPTER, CONTADORA REACTION

PA120034 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 11 May 84

[Interview granted by Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica to Marco Tulio Romero; date and place not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Paz Barnica] The press communique says clearly that this is a temporary withdrawal. Its duration will be determined by the Nicaraguan Government's behavior. We have to add that we have filed the corresponding protests before international organizations, such as the United Nations, the OAS, and the Contadora Group. In addition, I have spoken to Contadora Group members over the telephone. We have also told this to all diplomatic representatives to the Honduran Government, as well as to all our diplomatic representatives abroad.

The [Honduran] ambassador's withdrawal is temporary. This withdrawal might be extended, depending on the circumstances. This does not mean, however, a breaking off of relations, since there remains an official here at all times. The representation is reduced to charge d'affaires level. This is a sovereign right of all states, to assume a stance of this nature to demonstrate our uneasiness and annoyance in view of an action of such brutality as this one.

This action's brutality has now been compounded by an expression of cynicism. Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega has decorated the criminal who committed this murder.

[Romero] Won't the international organizations assume a drastic stance in view of this situation brought about by the Sandinist government?

[Paz Barnica] We are taking the necessary steps so that a vigorous condemnation will be expressed and a precedent established, but without compromising the moderation that must govern actions of this nature. We don't want to harm anyone, but to strengthen our peaceful stance toward both the world and Central America in accordance with what has been decided by the Contadora Group.

The International Civil Aviation Organization, whose main office is in Canada, regulates civil aviation activities. There are regulations for military aviation also, as well as standard practice which becomes customary law. This law was not respected by the Nicaraguan Government. It didn't even warn the Honduran Air Force helicopter, which had been fully identified and was entirely unarmed.

[Romero] What has been the reaction of the Contadora Group members to this event?

[Paz Barnica] First of all, I spoke to Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo. Then I spoke to Mexican Deputy Foreign Secretary Valero, since Foreign Secretary Sepulveda was out of the country accompanying President De la Madrid on his trip to Canada. In addition, I spoke to the Venezuelan foreign minister, and finally to the Panamanian foreign minister. The foreign minsters have expressed their concern over this incident, which will not contribute to a climate of calm. The Colombian foreign minster was most emphatic. All these foreign minsters, as well as those from Central America and other parts of the world, have expressed their condolences, their sorrow, and their solidarity with the Honduran Government and people.

It will now be up to the Contadora Group to examine our documents so that it is demonstrated that the Nicaraguan Government is committing actions of this nature. Actions such as this cause discord and threaten democracy, peace, and security in the Central American area.

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA

Paz Reads Declaration

PA111742 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1612 GMT 11 May 84

[Note issued by Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica to Edwin Zablah, Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras, dated Tegucigalpa, 11 May; read by Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica -- live]

[Text] Mr Ambassador: The Honduran Government has been patiently maintaining a conduct of proven serenity and calm in the face of the escalation of physical and psychological aggression that your government has intensified against my country.

The firm patience of Honduras has represented our sacrifice on behalf of the maintenace of regional peace and an expression of faith in the Contadora Group's peace efforts.

The most recent expression of the escalation of aggressions and provocations against Honduras was the downing in the Gulf of Fonseca on 8 May of an unarmed helicopter, clearly identified as belonging to the Honduran Air Force, which was on a routine administrative flight carrying eight people, including the crew and civilian passengers, all of whom died as a direct result of the act of barbarity committed by the regular Sandinist Army, which can only be compared to the most reprehensible crimes against humankind in history.

In reply to the correct Honduran request for authorization so that a commission could visit the site of the incident to recover and repatriate the bodies of the dead and thus verify and confirm this condemnable action, the Sandinist government suspiciously refused to give such authorization, alleging that the exact place where the helicopter had crashed had yet to be discovered, but that it had identified one of the bodies as well as the manufacturer's registration [registro de fabricacion] of the helicopter.

Despite the great indignation in Honduras over the unjustified Sandinist attack on the Honduran helicopter, my government had hopes that the Nicaraguan Government, showing signs of a minimum of international responsibility, would undertake a thorough investigation of the crime, applying the appropriate sanctions against those guilty and proposing indemnifications for the relatives of the victims and the Honduran Government. On the contrary, the Nicaraguan Government, apparently engaged in warmongering hysteria, has reached inconceivable extremes of disregard for human life and has insulted Honduran feelings by describing as heroic the criminal action by the Sandinist Army against the Honduran helicopter and by decorating the immediate culprit of a crime against humanity.

My government through this means declares you persona non grata as an unequivocal expression of the deep indignation of the Honduran state, which awaits the satisfactions that the gravity of the case demands, and I instruct you to leave the territory of the Republic within 48 hours.

I take this opportunity to express my highest esteem.

[Signed] Edgardo Paz Barnica, Foreign Secretary

Paz Gives News Conference

PA111835 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1612 GMT 11 May 84

[News conference granted by Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica at the Foreign Secretariat in Tegucigalpa; questioners not identified -- live]

[Excerpts] Today I read a dispatch from Managua, a news dispatch, that says that according to a Nicaraguan military authority, if any other Honduran helicopter were to do the same thing, it too would be downed. He added that the downed helicopter could not have been saved because it was downed by a heat-seeking missile that follows its objective by means of the engines' heat waves. This demonstrates the kind of sophisticated offensive war materiel that the Nicaraguan Government has. This is why it has tenaciously opposed, within the framework of the Contadora Group's efforts, any negotiations intended to either check, scale down, or eliminate the rash arms buildup in Central America.

In the same international dispatch, the Nicaraguan official said that the helicopter was unarmed. This admission becomes even more insolent in light of the letter or address that Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega delivered yesterday to the person who fired the offensive weapon. He was decorated, in what constituted an insult to the Honduran people's dignity and an offense to men of good will all over the world.

I would like to add that the Honduran Government will never change its unswerving policy, intended to achieve a peaceful solution by diplomatic means within a global and regional context for Central America. We have always made this clear through our support for the Contadora Group's efforts. I have also expressed this to the foreign ministers of the four countries that make up this group, and to the foreign ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala. We have similarly told this to the United Nations and its secretary general, Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar; to the OAS; and to all the diplomatic representatives accredited in our country, as well as to our diplomatic representatives accredited abroad.

The OAS Permanent Council has been convoked for Monday at Honduras' request, so that our country -- through its diplomatic representatives in that inter-American organization, Roberto Martinez Ordonez -- can make a presentation and can report on this brutal incident, which violates the most minimal norms of civilized coexistence within the framework of the principles of international law.

I am ready to answer any of your questions.

[Question] Will some other ambassador come over, or are our relations definitely broken? Honduras [words indistinct] ...

[Paz Barnica interrupts] Sir, one must objectively and thoroughly analyze what a declaration of persona non grata or the temporary withdrawal of an ambassador means in diplomatic law. The day before yesterday we temporarily withdrew our ambassador in Nicaragua, Colonel Isidro Tapia, leaving our embassy in the hands of the charge d'affaires. I have already announced this in an official note to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto. Today, the Honduran Government -- by decision of the president of the Republic, with the support of the Armed Forces, in line with the democratic institutionality that prevails in our country, and with the certainty of having the Honduran people's full support -- has declared the ambassador who represents that expansionist, offensive, and criminal government persona non grata.

This does not mean a break in relations, but it is a clear warning because after such actions there could be a break in diplomatic relations, which we will try to avoid at all costs. As I told the Nicaraguan ambassador when I handed him this note, the Nicaraguan Government must assume as of this moment the historical responsibility for a general war in Central America, because they do not want either to think things over or to reflect. Instead, to every peaceful action or offering on the part of Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, or the Contador countries, the Nicaraguan Government responds arrogantly, vetoing and hindering the peace negotiations that we have been conducting for over a year in Panama City.

[Question] Dr Paz Barnica, the neutrality policy is important in these cases. Today, a newspaper in San Pedro Sula, the newspaper TIEMPO, reports that you support the counterrevolutionary groups fighting to overthrow the Sandinist government.

[Paz Barnica] If you read that report, you would see that its contents do not match the headline. Yesterday, several journalists were waiting for me at the entrance to the Foreign Secretariat. In answer to a question on whether we shared President Reagan's view that the Nicaraguan individuals or organizations fighting the regime in Nicaragua should be supported, I answered clearly that we morally support anyone fighting for freedom anywhere in the world. I added that in Nicaragua there is an internal conflict where Nicaraguans are fighting Nicaraguans on Nicaraguan territory, and that the Honduran Government abides by the principle of nonintervention so long as this principle is based on reciprocity. I reiterate our moral support for all those fighting for freedom anywhere in the world, to overthrow any form of tyranny, be it extreme leftist totalitarianism or extreme rightist fascism.

[Question] What is your opinion of the resolution issued by the International Court of Justice in The Hague favoring Nicaragua in regard to the case on the U.S. forces' mining of Nicaraguan ports?

[Paz Barnica] I read the reports on the preliminary decision of the International Court of Justice. The International Court of Justice is an organization that is part of the United Nations and is the highest court in the world.

It replaced the Permanent Court of International Justice, which was dissolved when World War II started. The International Court of Justice is a very prestigious and a most respected institution in the world. This decision was made by this judicial entity. Now it is for the United States to respond to this decision within its own powers.

I heard several statements from Washington yesterday. it was said that this is a preliminary decision and that, as you all know, the government of that country had placed restrictions on the court's compulsory jurisdiction. This is all we can say because, to the Honduran Government, the International Court of Justice merits profound respect.

[Question] Will it be possible to reach a peaceful and negotiated solution for the Central American problem through the Contadora Group when tensions are constantly increasing between Honduras and Nicaragua, which is a source of concern for the Honduran and Central American peoples?

[Paz Barnica] This is also the deep concern of the Honduran overnment. We firmly support the Contadora Group. The documents on the initiatives and specific proposals of the Honduran Government, through its delegations, to seek peaceful and negotiated solutions can attest to that. We will continue to behave in the same manner. We will continue to work for peace and a diplomatic solution, because it is our obligation and our conviction. We then trust that the Nicaraguan Government will cease to be a threat to peace, democracy, and the security of Central America. You've been reading every day how the Nicaraguan Government is attacking the democratic Government of Costa Rica and how the Costa Rican Government withdrew its ambassador first, and then, just recently, declared a Nicaraguan diplomatic official in San Jose persona non grata.

Our decision and determination -- that is, that of the constitutional government of President Roberto Suazo Cordova -- is to struggle for peace. But to fight for peace with firmness and moderation, as is the case, must not be perceived as indifference in the face of flagrant violations of international law and offenses to the dignity of the Honduran people.

We must also defend ourselves. We should never get involved in an arms buildup because we are the one who requested the restoration of the terms for a balance in the region's military security, which the Nicaraguan Government opposes. That government has clearly stated, and Foreign Minister D'Escoto said it at the most recent meeting of the Contadora Group in Panama: We will continue to arm ourselves, and we will not tolerate the imposition of any measure that limits our right to continue arming ourselves.

President Suazo Cordova said just the opposite yesterday. We will continue, he said, to give technical training to the Honduran Armed Forces, and we will continue to purchase or acquire the military equipment that is strictly necessary for the defense of our territorial integrity and our national sovereignty. That is what he said. We are willing to participate immediately -- within a regional and global context -- in a disarmament program to restore the military balance in the region. Nicaragua rejects this. We will participate in this program as long as a general peace treaty is reached, including political, security, economic, and social aspects in an overall and regional way, as I have repeatedly stated.

I want to reiterate the decision of President Suazo Cordova -- who has remained in permanent contact with me from La Paz, where he is at the moment; as I said, he called me at 0415 -- to defend national interests with the full support of the Honduran people and the Armed Forces, which have given eloquent signs of democratic faith and civic and patriotic spirit. To fight for peace will continue to be our line. Thank you.

OAS TO HEAR REPORT ON HELICOPTER INCIDENT 14 MAY

PA111400 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 11 May 84

[Communique issued by the Foreign Secretariat; date and place not given]

[Text] The Foreign Secretariat reports to national and international public opinion that on Monday, 14 May, at 1000, an extraordinary meeting of the OAS Permament Council will be held in Washington, D.C., to hear the report that the Honduran ambassador to the OAS will present on the cold-blooded action by the Sandinist Army that resulted in the downing over the Gulf of Fonseca of the unarmed Honduran helicopter FHAUHIB 928 on 8 May, leaving a tragic toll of eight dead Hondurans.

NICARAGUA

HONDURAN DELEGATION CLAIMS BODIES OF CREW

PA111402 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government yesterday turned over to a military delegation of the Honduran Government the eight bodies of the crew of the UH-1H military helicopter downed by the Sandinist People's Army when it violated Nicaraguan airspace in Santa Julia, near Postosi, Chinandega. The Honduran delegation headed by the Honduran Armed Forces Chief of Staff and Lieutenant Colonel (Marco Antonio Lopez) arrived at Sandino Airport at 1400 aboard a Honduran Air Force plane. It was received by Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera and Commander Raul Venerio, chief of the Sandinist Air Force.

The two delegations held private talks in a protocol room for 30 minutes while the bodies were placed aboard the Honduran Air Force plane that took them to Honduras. Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera said that in the talks with the Honduran mission Nicaragua expressed its concern over the incident.

Torres, Venerio on Incident

PA110457 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] The decision to defend our national sovereignty and territorial integrity and to open fire on any aircraft which enters our airspace for hostile purposes was reiterated last night by Commander Hugo Torres, chief of the political section of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, and Commander Raul Venerio, commander of the Sandinist Air Force, FAS, during a press conference. The two EPS commanders ratified once more that the helicopter shot down by our antiaircraft batteries in the sector of Potosi, Punta Cosiguina, was U.S.-made and carried a Honduran crew which had violated the Nicaraguan airspace.

Commander Venerio said that the helicopter was a multiple-use aircraft: It could be used to carry troops or as a military gunship in a direct attack or as a reinforcement. He also revealed that so far this year our airspace has been violated 163 times, mostly by aircraft coming from Honduran territory. He said that the shooting down of this helicopter took place precisely at a time when the U.S., Honduran, and Salvadoran Armies are engaged in joint maneuvers in the Gulf of Fonseca. The shooting down of the helicopter, he asserted, was not an irresponsible or immature act; quite the contrary, the antiaircraft batteries received the order to fire only after the two helicopters were deep inside Nicaraguan territory.

In addition, Commander Hugo Torres said that a half hour after the U.S. helicopter was shot down in Potosi, an unidentified airplane flew over the zone. He explained that we are in a situation of war and that our country suffers from the Somozist counterrevolutionaries' aggressions almost every day, both on the northern and southern borders; there is no way of knowing if an incoming aircraft, such as the helicopter, is on a peaceful or hostile mission. He made it quite clear that there are Honduran officials who want to reach a political -- not military -- understanding with Nicaragua to resolve our differences. However, the United States is exerting pressure to prevent this and advocates a war.

He issued a call to the Honduran Government and people to reflect on the incident that has taken place, so that it is not repeated, and to understand that the United States is the one advocating a confrontation between Honduras and Nicaragua. He emphasized that we will be firm regarding the defense of our national sovereignty, and our reaction will be the same if similar incidents take place.

ENVOY TO HONDURAS ON PERSONA NON GRATA STATUS

PA111852 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1721 GMT 11 May 84

[Excerpts] The warmongering attitude of the Honduran Government was once again demonstrated this morning when Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica [word indistinct] our companero ambassador and declared him persona non grata. We spoke over the telephone with Companero Edwin Zablah. We will play the recording once again for our people. Companero Zablah was declared personal non grata by the Honduran Government, which through Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, made accusations against Nicaragua. Companero Zablah had been the Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras for the past 11 montns. He was called to the Honduran Foreign Secretariat at 0930 so that Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica could give him a note from the Honduran Government. The attitude of the Honduran Government once again shows the extent to which it follows the plans of the U.S. Administration. Here is the interview with Companero Ambassador Edwin Zablah.

[Begin recording] [Zablah] Good morning to the brothers of Voz de Nicaragua. Fraternal greetings to the Nicaraguan people from the Nicaraguan mission in Honduras. Today I was summoned by the Honduran foreign secretary at 0930, and he gave me a note that stated that I was being declared persona non grata and that I had 48 hours to leave the country.

[Unidentified reporter] Companero Ambassador, Radio Impacto, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency station operating in Costa Rica, and Honduran stations are talking about an imminent break of relations with Nicaragua by Honduras. Do you know anything about this? What did Mr Paz Barnica tell you when he spoke with you this morning?

[Zablah] [Words indistinct] break in diplomatic relations. What exists is the declaration of the Nicaraguan ambassador in Honduras as persona non grata. There is no break in relations. The relations are going to be maintained at the level of charge d'affaires, since Honduras has temporarily withdrawn -- as the Foreign Secretariat communique stated -- its ambassador to Nicaragua. By declaring me persona non grata, our mission in Honduras will also be left with a charge d'affaires. Therefore, the relations will be maintained at the level of charge d'affaires. If the CIA radio station in Costa Rica or the counterrevolutionary radio stations are saying that there is a break in relations, this is due to the next step that the CIA is promoting so that we will enter into a war that on one desires at this time, either in Nicaragua or much less in Honduras, whose people I am sure do not want a war that the imperialist interests seek. [end recording].

FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE ON HELICOPTER, ENVOY

D'Escoto Reads Communique

PA112330 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2132 GMT 11 May 84

[Foreign Ministry communique issued in Managua on 11 May 1984; read by Foreign Affairs Minister Miguel D'Escoto; place not given -- live]

[Text] In view of the arbitrary decision adopted by the Honduran Government today to expel our ambassador accredited to that country, Companero Edwin Zablah, the Nicaraguan Government most calmly wishes to state its position about a number of recent events which are being escalated in a dangerous manner, instigated by the North American Administration.

A. It is a known fact that on 8 May a formation of two military helicopters flew 8 kilometers into our territory and one of them was shot down by the antiaircraft fire of our defense installations. It was subsequently determined that the downed helicopter, which bore North American military markings on its fuselage, belonged to the Honduran Air Force. The place in Nicaragua where these events occurred -- the Peninsula of Cosiguina -- has been turned into an area of high military tension due to repeated incursions into our territory during the last 3 years, involving attacks by patrol boats, armed planes, and helicopters, besides the fact that the Gulf of Fonseca has been transformed into a region occupied by the North American naval forces, which are also stationed in the adjacent Honduran territory.

The Nicaraguan Government immediately reported these events to the Honduran authorities, offering every facility needed for the repatriation of the bodies of the eight occupants of the military helicopter. Constant communication was maintained all day today [as heard] and before the repatriation of the bodies from Nicaraguan to Honduran military authorities, and more concretely between Commander Raul Venerio, commander of the Sandinist Air Force, and General Walter Lopez, commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, who later delegated this function to Colonel Francisco Cepeda Andino. In addition, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto remained in contact with Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica.

Neither during these official contacts nor later did the Honduran Government request authority for a government or military mission to visit the place in Nicaraguan territory where the military helicopter was downed. The assertion to the contrary which was made by the Honduran Foreign Secretariat is a falsehood which must be vigorously denied.

B. Despite the fact that such a request has never been made, the Nicaraguan Government expresses its full readiness to allow the Honduran Government to send a mission, which will be authorized to visit the place in our territory at which the military helicopter was downed, and it is asking the member countries of the Contadora Group to appoint representatives to accompany the Honduran mission on this visit.

C. We wish to bring to the attention of the international community and the Honduran people themselves the fact that the attempts at mounting this dangerous series of stepped up attacks at the instigation of the North American Administration, hide ulterior plans to attack Nicaragua and unleash an armed conflict between the two countries which would bring only suffering and destruction to our peoples and from which only the North American Government would benefit within the context of its open, warlike policy toward Central America.

D. The loss of the lives of the eight Honduran crewmen of one of the military helicopters, which penetrated deep inside Nicaraguan territory under orders and for purposes which are still unknown, must be added to the number of Nicaraguan victims of the the North American aggression mounted from Honduran territory since the beginning of the illegal war, which has been condemned by several world forums. A total of 1,800 Nicaraguans have fallen victim to this truly criminal policy, which The Hague International Court has ordered the U.S. Government to stop immediately.

Upon reiterating our condolences over the deaths of these civilian and military Honduran citizens, we urge the Honduran people not to look at Nicaragua as an aggressor, as the enemies of peace want them to believe. Instead, they must demand that their government stop its open collusion with the North American interventionist forces, which seek to continue the bloodshed in Central America, so that Hondurans' peace and security may be permanently assured.

The Nicaraguan Government also wishes to reiterate its unwavering determination never to take the first step in a military confrontation with Honduras. On the contrary, we will continue seeking all possible means to achieve peace.

The Nicaraguan Government is taking immediate steps to report all these developments, the dangers in the escalation of this conflict -- which has been so rashly expressed by the Honduran foreign secretary -- and the catastrophic consequences which may result, to the UN Security Council, the member-countries of the Contadora Group, the Nonaligned Movement, and all other nations and organizations in the world which are interested in peace in Central America.

D'Escoto Gives Press Conference

PA120000 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2201 GMT 11 May 84

[Press conference by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman to unidentified questioners on 11 May; place not given -- live]

[Text] [Question; in progress -- in English] ...did they give you [word indistinct]?

[D'Escoto--in English] In the letter, one of the things that they argued was that we, that thing is so limited. [as heard] Well, it said it was doing it as response to the downing of military helicopter of the Honduran Air Force. But then he goes on to say how they had requested from Nicaraguan authorities permission to send a delegation from Honduras to see the location where the helicopter was downed and to take back home the bodies of the victims and that we had said that we could not give such permission because we did not know for sure where it had fallen. Really, what is it that we should say? That that is nothing more than a total, absolute and categorical lie.

[Question] After your explanations, what is expected of the situation at this moment in the Central American region and, of course, in Nicaragua?

[D'Escoto] Well, we expect that the Central American governments -- the rulers and armies being used by the United States to wage an illegal and immoral war against the Nicaraguan people and those people cooperating not only by lending their territory but by being directly involved -- to reconsider a little and realize that the situation has advanced to a highly dangerous point. It must be stopped because, as we said in the communique, the results could be tremendously disastrous and negative for our brothers, for our Central American peoples, not only Nicaragua. The United States will merely observe, caring little about the deaths of Central Americans and the degree of destruction resulting in these countries.

I believe it is about time to stop serving interests alien to ours and to act more dutifully and responsibly toward the peoples of the area, particularly the Honduran people, who are being dragged into more serious situations.

[Question] Father, do you have any comment on the AFP report from Washington yesterday that the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua had destroyed all its secret documents in view of an imminent invasion of Nicaragua by Honduras; that the order had been issued to the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua by the State Department?

[D'Escoto] It indicates one of two things: If they did destroy them by virtue of such an order, it means they knew about it, as no invasion could be conducted without the U.S. Government's green-light. After all, it is the United States who is directing this war. Honduras is merely a pawn in the U.S. regional policy. It could be considered part of a psychological war campaign. On the other hand, it would not be so if they had in fact destroyed such documents, if they had not only claimed to have destroyed them. It all indicates, however, that the situation is becoming more dangerous as a result of the fact that the U.S. Government has concluded that its policy to try to overthrow our government using CIA mercenaries, known internationally as contras, has already failed. Then what they are now doing is provoking a direct confrontation between Nicaragua and Honduras and also between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. However, in the latter case, I have hopes that common sense will prevail to prevent a further advance of this situation.

[Question] How can the Contadora Group help ease this serious situation in Central America?

[D'Escoto] I believe the basic issue here is to try to lead to direct, constructive dialogues and to make an appeal to the participants in the negotiations to take into consideration the defense of the rights of their own peoples and countries and so no one in the region serves interests alien to our countries.

[Question indistinct]

[D'Escoto] I understand that the recommended urgent meeting between us and the Costa Rican foreign minister, Carlos Jose Gutierrez, will take place next week. There is no official confirmation of this, but we might meet next week in Panama, probably on Tuesday.

[Question] Honduras has called an urgent meeting of the OAS on Monday. Is the OAS important in view of the Central American crisis?

[D'Escoto] There are two questions involved. The deputy foreign ministers of the Contadora Group will meet on Monday in Panama, and on Tuesday they will meet with us at the meeting between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, where we are going to ask Contadora to take part in the delicate situation between Nicaragua and Honduras. As to the OAS meeting, I do not have enough information on that, so I prefer to make no comment.

D'Escoto Reply to Paz Barnica

PA120543 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 May 84

[Message sent to Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto; date not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] Mr Minister, I write to your excellency in reply to your letters numbered 332-DSM dated 8 May, 338-DSM dated 9 May, and 346-DSM dated 11 May.

This last letter, addressed to the Nicaraguan ambassador in Honduras, was in regard to the downing of a military helicopter, which investigations have determined belonged to the Honduran Air Force.

Mr Minister, in your first letter you refer to the fact that in view of adverse weather conditions in the Gulf of Fonseca the military helicopter wandered off its route. Meteorological reports issued by stations in the airports of Choluteca, Ilopango, and Chinandega state that between 0700 and 1200 hours there was warm air, unlimited visibility, and normal temperatures in all sectors of the Gulf of Fonseca. Therefore, the suggestion that adverse weather conditions prevailed in that area is false.

In addition, it is illogical to say that the helicopter had detoured from its route, because the two military helicopters that entered our airspace had followed a route completely different from the one that your excellency has indicated. Tegucigalpa is located northeast of Amapala, and the helicopters were heading toward Cosiguina Point, which is in the southwest.

Moreover, the two helicopters headed toward points with military installations, which leads us to believe that they were on a specific observation mission. In your second letter, you reject the statement that the downed helicopter contained instructions from the U.S. Army. We consider it unnecessary to dwell on this point because we have the instructions from this helicopter, which bears a Honduran (?seal) and the words U.S. Army Material Command." This has already been widely published in the press.

In your third note, Mr Minister, you said that a proper Honduran request authorizing a national commission to go to the site of the incident has already been made. You also said that the Sandinist government has suspiciously denied such a request. This statement has justifiably surprised us because not until we received your note did we learn of such a request. This request has not been presented to any known authority in Nicaragua or our embassy in Tegucigalpa. We would appreciate very much if you would clarify when, to whom and by what means such a request was made in this regard.

Furthermore, despite the fact that this statement is not true, I would like to say that the Nicaraguan Government has no reason not to authorize a Honduran commission's trip to Consiguina Point, provided the Honduran Government wants to present a proper request to that effect.

Moreover, Nicaragua is in the process of asking the Contadora Group to send representatives to accompany the Honduran mission during their visit. It is very significant that the foreign minister should not know that the area in which the military helicopter was downed has been a target for many months of a number of air and sea attacks by mercenary forces coming from Honduran territory and that this same area has been site of attacks by Honduran Coast Guard ships and plane gunships on Nicaraguan ships. This does not include the innumerable violations of our sovereign airspace by planes and helicopters also coming from Honduran territory, in addition to constant naval maneuvers being carried out by U.S. troops off the gulf.

The Nicaraguan Government deems it necessary to point out that the dangerous warmongering escalation promoted by the U.S. Government in Honduras is in response to greater aggressive objectives against Nicaragua and covers up the objective of creating an armed conflict between the two countries that would only bring suffering and deception to our people. It would only benefit the U.S. Government.

We must also point out that Nicaragua is not and will never be an aggressive state or an enemy of the Honduran people, as the enemies of peace in Central America are trying to make us believe. The deaths of the eight Honduran citizens carried by the military helicopter is the responsibility of those who, forgetting the genuine interests of their people, have accepted foreign domination.

The Honduran Government's decision to declare our ambassador in Tegucigalpa persona non grata, without justification, is just another provocation aimed at objectives that we have already pointed out. Despite the seriousness of this decision, the Nicaraguan Government will not implement any measure that could be used to increase the tension that interests foreign to our peoples have been promoting.

Signed, Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, Foreign Minister

MINISTRY WARNS OF NEW COSTA RICAN 'SELF-ATTACK'

PA111234 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 May 84

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Managua on 10 May]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry reports the following: Reliable and trustworthy sources have informed the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry that between 11 and 12 May, members of the Costa Rican Rural Police, acting jointly with counterrevolutionaries, are planning to stage a self-attack operation in the sector of Los Chiles for the purpose of accusing Nicaragua of that criminal action. Approximately 200 mercenaries who are concentrated in front of the La Esperanza farm, 6 km southeast of San Carlos on the banks of the Frio River, would reportly participate in that self-attack. The planned self-attack would be staged by taking advantage of the confusion that might occur during the civic festivities to be held in the area of Los Chiles.

The Foreign Ministry publicly releases this information in order to prevent new artificially created conflicts that would deteriorate Costa Rican-Nicaraguan relations.

The Foreign Ministry also issues a new call to the Costa Rican Government to take the necessary measures to prevent actions similar to the ones that recently occurred during the self-attack in Penas Blancas by the Rural Police in Costa Rican territory.

Therefore, the Foreign Ministry alerts international and national public opinion to the possible implementation of the plans it makes known today. At the same time, it reiterates the Costa Rican Government's urgent responsibility and duty to adopt measures of control and security that will prevent the continuation of such actions that are motivated by interests alien to both peoples and seek to deteriorate bilateral relations and affect Costa Rican neutrality.

ARDE Calls Charges Absurd

PA130016 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, has branded as a lie intended to create confusion the Sandinist regime's announcement of a self-attack jointly being prepared by the Costa Rican Rural Guard and ARDE. These charges are absurd and totally false, and actually reveal plans for a new attack born of the dark minds of the sergeants who usurped Nicaragua's political and military power, the ARDE communique noted.

This announcement must be considered as preparation for a new attack and violation of Costa Rican territory by Nicaraguan troops, who now want to cure themselves before the illness takes hold and wash their hands publicly, ARDE concluded.

PORT MINING AFFECTING INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

PA111319 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] The mining of the ports is directly affecting industrial production because of the delays in shipments of raw materials and the lack of transportation for the merchandise.

The most affected industrial sector to date has been the chemical-pharmaceutical sector, as a result of some ships bringing raw material for the production of basic medicine having been diverted to Costa Rican ports. Due to the mining of the ports, the shipping company that Nicaragua had contracted to transport the more than $3 million worth of merchandise had to divert its ships and anchor in Costa Rica's port of Caldera so that the merchandise could subsequently be transported to Nicaragua. That raw material is for the production of essential medicine included in the basic list drawn up by the Health Ministry. The various laboratories such as Ramos, Recipe, and Rarpe are supplied with this raw material. In turn, the laboratories supply the country's drugstores. If the raw materials do not arrive before 30 May, there will be serious problems.

The cooking oil and soap industries have also been affected with a 30-percent increase in the prices of vegetable oil and tallow imported from the United States.

There has also been a decrease in the number of available ships, dropping from 15 to 3. Nicaragua imports 1,800 tons of tallow worth $18,000 from the United States monthly. The import of soybeans and raw material for the production of cooking oil amounts to $24 million [as heard], since our country can only produce 50 percent of the national demand.

SERGIO RAMIREZ ON DEMAND FOR U.S. INDEMNITY

PA121506 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, a member of the government junta, said last night that it was certain that the revolutionary government will appoint a magistrate at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Ramirez Mercado said that our magistrate must be appointed so that the case can continue after the court has issued a decision on the first phase.

On the possibility that Nicaragua will act at The Hague court to demand an indemnity from the U.S. Government for the damage caused by the attacks, the government junta member said that Nicaragua will have to present such a demand on the basis of the court's final decision, though he did not specify for what amount.

NONALIGNED LABOR MINISTERS MEET IN MANAGUA

Resolution Supports Government

PA131912 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 May 84

[Text] A resolution supporting Nicaragua's right to self-determination and to the defense of its independence, sovereignty, and integrity using all legitimate means was issued by the third conference of nonaligned countries' labor ministers during the closing ceremony of the event, held in the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center last night.

The Nicaraguan resolution, sponsored by more than 22 countries, including Angola, Cape Verde, the DPRK, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and others, categorically condemns the mining of Nicaraguan ports and other acts of aggression that contravene the right of the Nicaraguan people to self-determination. The resolution also demands an end to the threats, attacks, and other hostile covert acts against Nicaragua that have been admitted to by a foreign power, and urges the U.S. Government to comply with the provisional measures adopted by the International Court of Justice at The Hague, which has asked the United States to immediately cease all aggression. The document noted Nicaragua's firm right to self-determination and appealed to all states to intensify their solidarity with the Sandinist people.

A total of 10 resolutions on social, political, and economic issues were approved by the third conference of labor ministers of nonaligned countries last night, which thus ended its hard work at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua.

After the working commissions drafted the resolutions, the plenum approved them unanimously, although a few changes were made. The plenum first approved the resolution supporting the peoples and Government of Nicaragua, a resolution on Arab and Palestinian workers in the occupied territories, and one on the workers struggling against apartheid in Cyprus and South Africa, among others.

A resolution was also approved by the delegations attending the event thanking the Nicaraguan Government and peoples. The resolution of appreciation praises the Nicaraguan Government for its efforts to ensure the success of the event, serving to strengthen and consolidate the Nonaligned Movement.

Delegates to Meeting Cited

PA111258 Managua International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Babakr Mahmud Rasul, Iraqi labor and social affairs minister, who is in Managua, has made an appeal for peace among peoples. Meanwhile, (Reinder Assim), Indian delegate to the conference of nonaligned labor ministers, has said that Nicaragua must defend its revolution and construct its new society without foreign intervention or meddling. He recalled that nonalignment means independence, freedom, peace, equality, and democratization of peoples.

The fact that the third conference of labor ministers of the nonaligned countries and other developing countries is being held in Managua demonstrates the solidarity of these nations with Nicaragua and its revolution. The assertion was made by Algerian Labor Minister Mohamed Nabi, who described the holding of this conclave in Nicaragua as very significant in view of Nicaragua's current situation.

For his part, (Francisco Javier Mugnolo), Argentine representative to the conference, stressed that the Contadora Group must be supported so it can fulfill its objectives as successfully as everyone in Latin America hopes it can.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO -- Mexico and Nicaragua yesterday signed a technical cooperation agreement that establishes that Mexico will give technical advice to the Labor Ministry. It was signed by the Nicaraguan labor minister and the Mexican under secretary of labor and social welfare. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 May 84 PA]

DECISION ON OLYMPIC PARTICIPATION STILL NOT MADE

FL111258 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1103 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] At a meeting with national and international sports writers, Vice President of the Council of Ministers Jose Ramon Fernandez said the climate created in Los Angles is not exactly consistent with Olympic principles. The Cuban leader referred to numerous provocations and other acts carried out in Los Angeles by counterrevolutionary groups which do not guarantee the dignity and safety of athletes from socialist nations. Although the Cuban Olympic Committee has not yet made any decision, it is necessary to describe these events and the way in which they are encouraged, Jose Ramon Fernandez said. Nevertheless, he added, our athletes are still training and we wish the Olympic movement well.

Soviet on USSR Decision

PA110421 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 May 84

[Text] Major General Viktor Gorbatko, chairman of the Bureau of Sports Committee of Friendly Armies, has asserted in Havana that he considers the decision of the Soviet Sports Committee not to attend the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, in the United States, just and right. Gorbatko said the decision is fully justified because of the absence of guarantees on the physical integrity of sportsmen from the socialist community and because of the anti-Soviet campaign unleashed by the United States. Gorbatko noted that if they run counter to Olympic principles these games will not help strengthen peace among peoples and athletes but will serve as a tool to exacerbate the heated climate created and promoted by imperialism in the world.

Gorbatko, a two-time hero of the Soviet Union, is chairing the 28th meeting of the Sports Committee of Friendly Armies, which on Tuesday approved Syria's and Laos' admission, thereby raising to 19 the number of members of this organization.

ROK REPORTERS TOLD NATION TO ATTEND 1988 GAMES

SK111213 Seoul YONHAP in English 1204 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Havana, Cuba, May 11 (YONHAP) -- Cuba is ready to take part in the 1988 Seoul Summer Olympics to compete with participating countries from the world over, a spokesman for the Cuban Sports Ministry [as received] said Friday. In a news conference with South Korean reporters here, Miguel Diaz, the ministry's public-relations officer, said if South Korea abides by the Olympic Charter, his country will participate in the Seoul Olympics. Seoul and Havana have no official relations.

Diaz also said Cuba will invite all nations to the official sports meets it hosts while trying to take part in as many sports events as possible staged in other countries. He reminded the South Korean reporters that his ministry had invited South Korea to an international baseball championship to be held in Havana next October.

The South Korean reporters are in Havana to cover the pre-Olympic women's basketball tournament currently under way there.

COURT RULES AGAINST U.S. ACTIONS IN NICARAGUA

PA111933 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] With the unanimous approval of the 15 magistrates of the International Court of Justice at The Hague, the court has ruled that the United States must immediately end the mining of Nicaragua's ports and respect the sovereignty and independence of that Central American country. The U.S. justice who is a member of the court voted against the verdict's paragraph that points out that Nicaragua's right to political independence must under no circumstances be harmed by any military or paramilitary action.

The Nicaraguan ambassador to the Netherlands, Carlos Arguello, said that the court ruling is extremely important because it will serve as support for the peace efforts in the region. From now on, he stated, the United States will have only two alternatives: to obey or to disobey the United Nation's top legal branch. If it disobeys the court's ruling, the U.S. Government will become an outlaw.

The first White House reaction to the ruling came from Langhorne Motley, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, who said that it is only theoretical and has no practical value.

COMMENTARY ON REAGAN SPEECH, HAGUE COURT RULING

FL111658 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1134 GMT 11 May 84

[International commentary by television commentators Oscar Ferrer and Miguel Toirac during the Revista de la Manana program -- live]

[Text] [Toirac] Good morning, television viewers; good morning, Ferrer. The United States has just been defeated in the International Court of Justice at The Hague. As you already know from the news reports, despite the refusal of the United States to recognize its jurisdiction during the next 2 years, the International Court of Justice at The Hague has called for an end to the political and military action taken against the Sandinist government, including the mining of Nicaraguan ports. This situation, taken together with U.S. President Ronald Reagan's recent speech, reveals the interest that country has in continuing to encourage the counterrevolution and the efforts to destabilize the Sandinist government in Nicaragua.

With regard to Reagan's speech, Ferrer, it seems important to me to point out that it was characterized by the invocation of the specter of chaos and anarchy along the U.S. border in an attempt to get the U.S. people to view what Reagan called the surge of communism in Central America as an imminent threat because of its exportation by the USSR, Nicaragua, and Cuba. He attempted to marshal U.S. public opinion in defense of U.S. interests in the area. It seems to me that it is important to talk about this because it was a very slanted speech with a lot of interior aspects. On the one hand the administration stirs up this specter, and on the other it offers different types of aid to the counterrevolutionary bands, El Salvador, and Honduras; even Costa Rica is being increasingly drawn into this conflict.

[Ferrer] There is no doubt that terrorizing the U.S. people and influencing the Congress were the basic goals of the aggressive speech that U.S. President Ronald Reagan gave Wednesday night. Other basic goals of this speech included justifying the Reagan administration's anti-Nicaraguan policy and attempting to obtain support for the U.S. plan to provide more military aid, additional military aid, for the Salvadoran regime.

A few hours after this virulent attack by the President, the U.S. Administration suffered a defeat: The International Court of Justice at The Hague reported that the United States should cease its support of the anti-Sandinist bands and its mining of Nicaraguan ports. Reagan's speech last Wednesday was overflowing with anti-Soviet and anticommunist statements, and false theories on the exportation of the revolution, and it attempted to present the United States as the victim of Central America revolutionaries because, according to Reagan, the Central American revolution threatens American security and even the American way of life. According to Reagan, the world's most powerful capitalist power is threatened by the Salvadoran revolutionaries, who come from a poor country that is in a truly critical situation due to the genocide of a regime that has been serving U.S. interests in the area for years.

In this speech, Reagan did nothing more than insist that for Central America, the White House has only the U.S. formula that, of course, rejects the negotiating position of the Contadora Group. Reagan once again defended the U.S. right to intervene militarily in Central America to crush the revolutionary liberation movement in that area. In what other way can we interpret his obstinate insistence on increasing military aid to El Salvador or the continuing presence of U.S. troops in Honduras on military maneuvers, and now the involvement of the Costa Rican Government in the conflict by riding roughshod over the neutrality that the San Jose government has tried to maintain? In his speech, Reagan deformed reality to such an extent that he actually stated again that if the Salvadoran Government did not receive immediate additional military aid, the Salvadoran troops would be unable to defend their positions and, of course, U.S. security would be threatened. For some time, Reagan has been using every means to get people to believe that the U.S. border runs through Central America and that a revolutionary victory in that region would endanger the United States, as if poor little nations like El Salvador could threaten the security of the United States! Using arguments as ridiculous as these, Reagan is trying to obtain support for his Central American policy and approval by Congress of additional aid for the Salvadoran Government.

Just yesterday, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a program for additional military aid for El Salvador, including about $120 million for this year and about $135 million for next year. It should be noted that this vote approved a bill that authorizes a plan for this type of activity but does not authorize the funds. Nevertheless, this allows one to see that the U.S. Congress, despite the fact that we are in an election year in the United States, [changes thought] every indication is that Congress is going to accede to Reagan's request and grant the additional military aid to El Salvador.

[Toirac] I believe that it will. There is even a demonstration in the film we are viewing on the television screen now. We are seeing the construction of military bases in Honduras -- airports in Honduras -- that everyone knows about. All over the world, on the international level, this has been widely discussed: the large-scale militarization of this country.

The President's speech has been criticized by various senators. This is the case of White House aspirant, Democrat Gary Hart, who tactically brought up the fact that Reagan does not seem to realize that the Central American enemy -- and this is a quote -- is not communism, but poverty. And I just remembered a report published today by GRANMA on the front page that reports on the increase in interest rates that the United States charges Latin American countries, which increases by $1.6 billion the already large external debt of these countries.

So, far from helping them from the economic point of view -- instead of trying to reduce poverty, instead of eliminating unemployment and the crisis conditions in public health and education that exist in these countries -- far from doing this they try to increase military aid more and more under the aegis of superior American force because communism is threatening the area. The Democratic senator from Massachusetts, Paul Tsongas, says that the Republicans -- one has to know a little about this -- the Republicans are going to support Reagan. Obviously, because the party follows his policies, it supports them. And the Democrats will give the President what he asks for to avoid being criticized if things go badly. That is [words indistinct] if the revolutionary movement managed to succeed in El Salvador or in Guatemala, they could not be blamed because they had also helped Reagan. I think that this speech is very significant if we go back to the years of the cold war, if we once again drag out the shopworn arguments, such as the spread of communism in the area, and blame Cuba or the USSR or, of course, Nicaragua for exporting the revolution and for the ills that exist in the area.

[Ferrer] Yes, Toirac. I believe it would be appropriate to speak a little bit more about the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Just a few hours before Reagan willfully distorted the truth, the international court at The Hague issued an opinion that represents a resounding defeat for President Reagan's Central American policy. The International Court of Justice is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, and its function is to settle, via judicial findings, whatever international controversies arise. On 9 April, the Nicaraguan Government presented a complaint to the International Court of Justice regarding the Reagan administration's aggressive policy against Nicaragua and specifically concerning the mining of Nicaraguan ports and U.S. military, material, and economic support of the anti-Sandinists.

When the Nicaraguan Government requested the intervention of the International Court of Justice, it knew, of course, that the court should settle this matter in Nicaragua's favor because of the overwhelming proof of President Reagan's aggressive policy. It was to be assumed that the court would find, as it did, in favor of Nicaragua. After several days of deliberations, the court made public its findings in which it opposes the mining of Nicaraguan ports and the support that Reagan is giving the anti-Sandinist bands. During 1.25 hours, the president of the court read a series of documents containing the court's decision, and it was clear that the Reagan government had been strongly criticized by this court; all its maneuvering and anti-Nicaraguan policies were evident. For years, the United States had stressed the importance of this court and had always expressed support for the court. But because it knew that the court was going to rule against Reagan's Central American policy, it decided to announce in a disrespectful fashion that during a 2-year period, it would refuse to recognize all court decisions on Central America. That is, in a disrespectful fashion, it rejected the authority of an international court.

[Toirac] I believe so. The very act of refusing to recognize the court is a sign -- as Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco [as heard] said -- of U.S. guilt. I believe that there is a fourth important element that we must not fail to mention. This is the attempt to get Costa Rica to ignore its declared principle of neutrality in the area. THE WASHINGTON POST has just revealed a secret document that shows that a prominent Costa Rican, in cooperation with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, [words indistinct] the recent border incidents via diplomacy, but the Reagan government pushed him to create an incident in a known, hackneyed attempt to link him to some kind of action against Nicaragua. I believe we have finished for today. We will have to continue dealing with this subject.

COMMENTARY REACTS TO REAGAN'S TELEVISION SPEECH

PA121601 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 11 May 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] President Ronald Reagan once again addressed the topic of Central America last Wednesday in Washington. He really said nothing new. He simply rehashed what he and his closest advisers have been repeating over and over again about the serious situation in the area.

Reagan's statement on Central America was not made haphazardly. He utilized his every talent to convince the U.S. Congress to approve his request for more aid to El Salvador. The Salvadoran Armed Forces are bankrupt and their tropps are constantly being defeated by the FMLN guerrillas. Reagan believes that by sending more arms and U.S. advisers to El Salvador he will obtain the military victory for which the imperialists are striving. The U.S. President said that El Salvador is struggling valiantly to achieve a workable democracy, a stable economic system, and to redress historical injustices. All of the revolutionary and progressive forces would concur with such a statement. Indeed, that is what the Salvadoran rebels are fighting for. Naturally, in Reagan's view, those who are fighting for democracy and against historical injustices are the perpetrators of genocides that head El Salvador's current regime.

For the umpteenth time, Reagan tried to justify the U.S. intervention in that Central American country, alleging that Cuba and the USSR are intervening there. He and his advisers have repeated this at least 100,000 times. However, the only things that have been confirmed are that there are U.S. advisers in El Salvador; that the Salvadoran regime's Armed Forces are equipped with all kinds of arms that are manufactured either by the United States or by one of its unconditional allies, particularly Israel; and that Reagan continues to ask the U.S. Congress for more funds to further build up El Salvador's military arsenal.

Reagan had at least two slips of the tongue on Wednesday, when he inadvertently disclosed -- though he has actually made them clear several times in the past -- the true goals of U.S. intervention in El Salvador. He said that Washington's support of the Salvadoran regime is in the strategic interest of the United States. He went on to say that to support the government in San Salvador is to support the United States.

Reagan did not limit himself to discussing El Salvador. He also spoke -- very threateningly, one must add -- about Nicaragua. He accused the Nicaraguan revolutionary government, as always, of supporting the guerrillas in El Salvador, and of being a satellite for international communism. While Reagan attempted to instill fear in the U.S. people by using that smokescreen, he pressured the Congress into approving further U.S. intervention in Central America.

Gary Hart, one of the Democratic presidential hopefuls, said that Reagan does not realize that poverty and not communism is the enemy in Central America. It would come as no surprise that such a statement would prompt Reagan to label Hart a communist.

In any event, the Reagan administration is going ahead with its mad plans for direct intervention in Central America and Ronald Reagan continues to take steps in that direction. In Wednesday's speech, when he addressed the topic of Nicaragua, he made reference to the flagrant and criminal U.S. invasion of the small island of Grenada in October of last year. A similar temerity in Central America would have a disastrous outcome for the United States. President Reagan can be sure of that.

FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA HOLDS TALKS IN CONGO

FL121745 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Congo's Prime Minister Louis Sylvain Goma has noted the aid given by Cuba to his country during the difficult times of the Congolese revolution. During a meeting with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee, Goma referred to the bilateral cooperation during the 20 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries, characterized by a common interest in favor of peace and the people's development.

On Citizens in Angola

FL111254 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] It is illogical to try to link the withdrawal of Cuban internationalists from Angola to the Namibia independence issue, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has stated in Brazzaville, the Congolese capital. The Cuban minister reiterated that the Cubans are in Angola at the request of that country's people and government to guarantee Angola's independence. He said he was sure the Namibian people will achieve independence under the leadership of the South-West African People's Organization, known as SWAPO according to its English initials. Malmierca said Cuba respects the decisions of sovereign states and has reiterated its willingness to contribute to the indepednence and development of African peoples.

The Cuban minister arrived in Brazzaville to participate in the activities marking the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the Congo. Today Malmierca will begin a tour of the interior of the Congo which includes a visit to Oyao, the home town of President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, where the Congolese head of state will receive Malmierca and his delegation.

SELA OFFICIAL CITED ON U.S. INTEREST RATE HIKE

PA112019 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Sebastian Alegrett, permanent secretary of SELA, has charged in the Colombian city of Cali that the growing fiscal deficit of the United States is being financed with resources from Latin America and, in general, the developing nations. Alegrett, who is participating in a meeting of prominent persons from the region who are discussing the information sector and sovereignty, warned that the increased interested rate imposed by the U.S. banks surpasses Latin America's tolerance level. Alegrett told PRENSA LATINA that it is valid to state that it is impossible for Latin America to pay its foreign debt under current conditions. This position was also stated by regional chiefs of state and government leaders during the economic conference held in Quito earlier this year.

In opening the discussions on information and sovereignty yesterday, Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda cautioned that developing nations, because of structural deficiencies and technological backwardness, are exposed to a weakening of their national identity under the overwhelming influence of more powerful countries.

REPORT CITED ON U.S., ISRAEL PLANS IN GUATEMALA

FL121624 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1422 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] The United States, Israel, and the Guatemalan regime are planning to transform Guatemala into an important industrial-military complex as part of the anti-insurgency strategy in Central America.

According to a confidential report circulating in Mexico City which deals with Guatemala's information service, high officials of those three governments met last 10 and 12 December at the San Marcos military base and at the Santo Tomas residential farm. The secret short- and medium-term project includes a first phase for pacification, whose essential objective is to liquidate insurgency, and a second phase that will favor the creation of several development areas on the Pacific and Atlantic sides of the country. The plan provides for an initial investment of $210 million by the United States.

U.S. SUPPORT FOR SALVADOR'S DUARTE 'OBVIOUS'

PA111410 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 9 May 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] President Ronald Reagan has expressed in Washington his satisfaction over Jose Napoleon Duarte's virtual victory in Sunday's presidential elections in El Salvador. He said that it proves that progress has been made on human rights in this Central American country. It was obvious that the U.S. Government was supporting Duarte's candidacy against Roberto D'Aubuisson, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA. This left no doubt that Duarte would be El Salvador's next president because he meets the requirements that the U.S. Government needs to try to change El Salvador's image. Although the U.S. Government was optimistic about the elections, it did not turn out as expected. As a matter of fact, the U.S. Government was disappointed. The imperialist news media could not conceal the people's lack of interest, skepticism, and indifference regarding the elections; it could not even disregard the fact that the people seem to have confidence in the revolutionary organizations. Some U.S. correspondents who witnessed the elections said that one could feel in the air the presence of the Salvadoran guerrillas as a determining factor in the elections. Even the soldiers who were in charge of guarding the ballot boxes were obviously concerned about the possibility of a guerrilla attack at any moment with the people's support.

There was an intense military mobilization. Military personnel were placed on a state of alert to maintain order during the elections. According to Radio Venceremos, the FMLN radio station, the electoral farce was not held in 54 municipalities in the Departments of Morazan, La Union, Usulutan, and San Miguel, which are under FMLN control. On the day of the elections, the rebels carried out a very important action when they attacked and occupied San Miguel, the third most important city of El Salvador. The guerrillas inflicted many casualties on the Army and seized a large amount of military equipment in this action.

Sunday's elections are another manipulation that the U.S. Government has carried out in this Central American country to try to crush the guerrillas and perpetuate in power the pro-U.S. oligarchy and military. The elections were also another U.S. intervention in El Salvador because the United States will continue increasing military aid to the regime under the pretext that the country has a democratically elected president.

Meanwhile, it did not take Duarte very long to come forth and express his wish to be friends with the United States. He said, among other things, that the United States was a champion of democratic freedoms, and he hoped the United States would continue helping El Salvador fulfill its patriotic duties. Duarte did not waste any time playing up the U.S. Government, and Reagan immediately said he would give all his support to Duarte. On 1 July, when Duarte officially becomes the president of El Salvador, for the second time his name will be on the list of the enemies of the Salvadoran people who, with the aid of U.S. imperialism, have tried to crush El Salvador's liberation efforts.

FMLN MEMBER ACCUSES U.S. OF CHEMICAL WARFARE

FL112012 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1803 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] (Josefina Gomez), a member of the FMLN, has told the Portuguese newspaper AVANTE that the Reagan administration is using napalm and chemical weapons against the Salvadoran people. She said that the people are the victims of those barbarous means of mass annihilation and that the danger of direct military intervention by the United States in El Salvador has never been as real as it is today. The FMLN member said that Washington's interference in the electoral farce was a prelude to and justification for intervention in that country.

UNGO: SALVADOR LOOKS LIKE U.S. 'PROTECTORATE'

PA112032 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Salvadoran FDR President Guillermo Ungo has charged in Lima that his country looks increasingly like a U.S. protectorate. Speaking to EL DIARIO MARKA, Ungo said that in El Salvador there are two real powers: The FMLN, and an increasingly denationalized regime. Regarding last Sunday's elections in El Salvador, Guillermo Ungo said that only 1,300,000 persons voted; that is, less than 50 percent of the people who were entitled to vote. He noted that a very high percentage of the people who voted did so out of fear, since not voting in El Salvador is the same as putting on a subversive sign and becoming a victim of the persecution.

Ungo condemned the United States for its almost daily sabotage of the Contadora Group's peace efforts through puppet governments such as those of El Salvador and Honduras.

ORTEGA REAFFIRMS DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS

PA110242 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] Nicaragua has reaffirmed its willingness to maintain good relations with the United States and its Central American neighbors as well as to sign nonaggression and cooperation agreements with the countries of the area in the framework of the Contadora Group negotiations. This affirmation was made by Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the government junta in Managua at the inauguration of the 3d conference of labor ministers of the Nonaligned Movement, which is being attended by representatives from 40 nations.

Ortega said that the meeting is being held at a time of an escalation of imperialist policy in the world, as demonstrated by the aggressions against Argentina, Grenada, and Nicaragua. He criticized the countries that exchange a plate of lentils for the use of their territory to attack their neighbors. He added that U.S. pressure, threats, and aggression will not make Nicaragua change its commitments to the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement, especially the defense of national independence and the right to self-determination. He urged the conferees to find solutions to benefit the members of the Movement and to close ranks to demand the democratization of the international credit organizations and a greater response of these organizations to the urgent needs of developing countries.

HONDURAN HELICOPTER DEAD RETURNED FROM NICARAGUA

PA110232 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] A four-engine Honduran Air Force plane has returned to that country bearing the eight bodies of the crew and passengers of the helicopter that was shot down on Tuesday while violating Nicaraguan airspace. The plane was piloted by Honduran Air Force Chief Colonel Carlos Aguirre, who met in the protocol room of the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport with Commander Raul Venerio, chief of the Sandinist Air Force, Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera, and other officials. Colonel Aguirre barely mumbled a few words to journalists to deny that the helicopter was maneuvering in the area where it was shot down.

Raul Venerio rejected the statements and recalled that this year alone there have been more than 200 Nicaraguan airspace violations, generally by aircraft coming from Honduras. Leon Talavera said that his country had expressed concern to the Honduran military delegation for this deplorable incident, explaining that these actions are not the will of the Nicaraguan Government but that the Armed Forces were prepared to give an emphatic response to intruding aircraft that constantly violate the national territory.

The military plane that returned the bodies also carried Honduran ambassador to Nicaragua Colonel Isidro Tapia. Honduras said that it was withdrawing its ambassador indefinitely and is considering the possibility of suspending relations with Nicaragua.

DANIEL ORTEGA CITED ON U.S., HONDURAN POLICY

PA140026 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has warned of the possibility of a large-scale war against his country started by the United States. The Sandinist leader referred to this in Managua, while commenting on statements made recently by Honduran Foreign Affairs Secretary Edgardo Paz and a speech by U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who both threatened the Nicaraguan revolution. Daniel Ortega said that these threats by the Tegucigalpa regime unmask its role as an instrument of Washington's aggressive policy.

He added that it should be ascertained who issued the orders to the Honduran crewmen flying two U.S. helicopters -- one of which was shot down -- when they recently violated Nicaraguan airspace on a clear morning when there was no possibility of straying from their route. Daniel Ortega said: They are now trying to make us appear the aggressors, when things are quite clear. We did not enter Honduran territory to shoot down the aircraft; we did it in Nicaragua, exerting our legitimate right to defend ourselves. He also deplored the death of the Honduran officers, saying that they -- and hundreds of Nicaraguans murdered by the counterrevolutionaries' attacks -- are victims of the U.S. policy in Central America.

The coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction likewise denounced the propaganda campaign -- particularly in Costa Rica -- against the Sandinist revolution, which is amed at justifying the presence of U.S. soldiers in Costa Rican territory.

NICARAGUA CITED ON COSTA RICAN 'SELF-ATTACK'

PA130431 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Nicaragua has charged that members of the Costa Rican Rural Guard and counterrevolutionary elements are planning a new self-attack either today or tomorrow for the purpose of accusing the Sandinist government of the action. A Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry communique said that reliable sources have informed it that the criminal action could take place in the sector of Los Chiles, bordering on the Nicaraguan Rio San Juan Department. The sources added that the self-attack would include the participation of some 200 mercenaries concentrated in the area of La Esperanza farm, in Costa Rican territory, near the Nicaraguan community of San Carlos.

Explaining that Nicaragua is revealing the information to avoid new artifically created conflicts, the foreign minister exhorted the San Jose government to take measures to avoid such actions, which are intended to benefit interests alien to both nations.

NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET

PA140258 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 May 84

[Text] The foreign ministers of Nicaragua and Costa Rica will meet next Tuesday [as heard] in Panama City to analyze their countries' tense bilateral relations, according to information revealed by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto. Prior to the meeting between D'Escoto and Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Gutierrez, the deputy foreign ministers of the Contadora Group -- comprised of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama -- will meet in Panama City. They will also participate in the meeting to be held on Tuesday.

The Nicaraguan Government has requested an urgent meeting to discuss the situation that has arisen following what has been termed a self-attack by the Costa Rican rural police on 3 May, in the border area of Penas Blancas. Nicaragua has accused the CIA and certain Costa Rican officials of trying to create artificial conflicts to undermine relations between the two countries.

VENEZUELAN COMMUNISTS ON VISIT OF U.S. WARSHIP

PA140231 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] The Communist Party of Venezuela has warned against the visit of the U.S. aircraft carrier America to Venezuela and linked this visit to the increase of U.S. intervention in Central America. The party added that this visit has the additional purpose of exerting pressure on Venezuela so that this country will abide by the dictates of the IMF and the foreign debt creditor banks.

The Venezuelan Communist newspaper TRIBUNA POPULAR has indicated that, despite the official announcement that the presence of the U.S. vessel is a courtesy visit, it is meaningful that this visit is being paid while the government of U.S. President Ronald Reagan is increasing its intervention in Central America and blocking the Contadora Group's peace efforts.

BARBADOS

MONTHLY RETAIL INFLATION SHOWS SMALL RISE

FL111530 Bridgetown CANA in English 1521 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 11 (CANA) -- Retail prices in Barbados went up by 0.7 percent in March over February, according to the latest official figures released here. The rate of inflation for the 12-month period ended March, 1984 was 4.9 percent.

Within the nine major groups, the index for alcoholic beverages and tobacco remained unchanged while the indices for food, housing, fuel and light, and clothing and footwear declined. Increases of less than 1 per cent were recorded for the household operations and supplies, medical and personal care, education, recreation and miscellaneous, and transportation groups. The food index declined by 1.5 per cent during the month following downward movements in the prices of flour, beef, deep sea fish, butter, and vegetables. Also in this group, the prices of milk, cheese, eggs, sugar, and animal feeds remained unchanged.

GRENADA

RICHMOND HILL DETAINEES BEGIN HUNGER STRIKE

FL120054 Bridgetown CANA in English 2245 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, May 11 (CANA) -- Thirteen of 15 persons being held without charge at Grenada's top security Richmond Hill Prison following last October's political upheavel here have gone on a hunger strike, their lawyer said today. Jamaican attorney Maurice Frankson, who is part of a two-man defence team representing all 15 in a habeas corpus case brought against the commissioner of prisons, said the detainees' action was to protest their continued imprisonment without charge. Frankson told CANA the hunger strike started on Monday and the detainees are threatening to continue their action until charges are either laid against them or the authorities set them free.

Among the detainees refusing to eat are former Health Minister Christopher de Riggs, as well as Majors Basil Gahagan and Keith Roberts, First Lieutenant Rudolph Ogilivie, and Captain Hugh Romain of the short-lived junta that had seized power in the Army coup, in which at least 17 people, including Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, were executed. There has been no official comment on the alleged hunger strike.

JAMAICA

DEVALUATION OF 2.4 PERCENT FOLLOWS AUCTION

FL120044 Bridgetown CANA in English 2225 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 11 (CANA) -- The Jamaica dollar has gone through a further 2.4 per cent devaluation following yesterday's Central Bank auction for foreign exchange here. The official exchange rate against the American dollar is now J4.11 dollars buying and J4.15 selling. The previous rates were J4.01 and 4.05 dollars respectively. The new rise means that the exchange rate has now reached the top end of the J30 cents band within which the local currency is allowed to float, raising the possibility of the government again hiking the figures at both ends, as it has done almost on a fortnightly basis since last November when the local dollar was devalued by just over 43 per cent.

BURNHAM OPPOSES CARIBBEAN REGIONAL ARMY

FL111647 Bridgetown CANA in English 1538 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 11 (CANA) -- President Forbes Burnham of Guyana criticised the setting up of a regional army saying he didn't think it was justified. Burnham made his remarks in an interview with the Havana weekly GRANMA, just distributed here by the Cuban Embassy. Following the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada after a bloody political upheaval last October, Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams announced that six regional states were considering establishing a defence force to protect themselves against revolutions or external aggression.

"Significantly this proposal has come shortly after the invasion of Grenada, and if one looks at (it), one gets the impression that it's not so much a security force to protect the territorial integrity of one or another of these countries that are to be involved with the exercise, but rather the building of a force in the context of a cold war conflict," Burnham told the Cuban paper. He said it was a tragedy and a "historical pity" that the Caribbean should get into such a situation. He charged that the concept of a regional army was itself a "threat both to the security and the economic interest" of the islands in the area, and 'we don't think (it) ... has any justification." Burnham said Guyana supported the call for the Caribbean to be declared a zone of peace but added that there had been "a build up of armed forces in the region."

The countries involved in the planning for the force, funding for which has been sought from Washington, are Barbados, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and St Kitts and Nevis. They along with Jamaica provided a token force to assist the American intervention in Grenada. Burnham said he saw nothing wrong with a country or countries seeking to have security arrangements to protect their territorial integrity, but argued that "coming after Grenada, one sees that what they really are after is to create a cordon sanitaire around (to isolate) those countries with whose ideology they do not agree." He said that some countries in the 13-nation Caribbean Community (Caricom) that had subscribed to peaceful coexistence, now seemed to believe that there is no room for ideological pluralism in the region.

"I feel that at this stage, it is necessary that we live with ideological pluralism and, I hope, speaking for Guyana, I don't insist that the form of government or the ideological objectives of say, Jamaica or Barbados, should be identical with those of Guyana, or that they should think what Guyana thinks on certain issues," Burnham said.

The Government of Guyana, he said, is a socialist one. "All we ask in Guyana is that they recognise the fact that we are basically one people, and that we should seek to find areas where our interests converge, where our interests are common, rather than areas where there are differences," he continued. Caricom, Burnham said, has been affected by the recent events in the region, but was optimistic that the wounds will be healed and there will be greater cooperation. "What is of some concern is that there are some Caribbean countries where the leadership or the governments are more interested in supporting foreign interests than in supporting Caribbean interests, in attempting, almost as instruments of foreign agencies and powers, to isolate countries like Guyana which do not share with them, in our view, certain backward concepts," Burnham said.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

VENEZUELAN OIL OFFICIAL PROPOSES COMMON MARKET

FL111521 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0050 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] Mexico City, 10 May (NOTIMEX) -- At the 19th meeting of the Latin American Petroleum Industry Mutual Aid Association being held here, the Venezuelan Petroleum Enterprise today proposed the creation of a Latin American common market. The president of the Venezuelan Petroleum Enterprise, Juan Chicin, said he believes that a market would reap benefits for member countries, but added that the decision should be made by the energy ministers of area nations which are members of the Latin American Energy Organization.

Referring to the recent increase in U.S. interest rates, he said it would not affect his enterprise inasmuch as it is self-sufficient in financial matters related to its exports. However, he said Venezuela, as a country which imports other goods and as a principal debtor in the international financial market, is affected because its debt service amounts to $35 billion.

Likewise, he said Venezuela has set a production ceiling of 1,675,000 barrels of oil daily and that the objective of the production restriction initiated by OPEC was the protection of the price of that energy source. He indicated that in the short- and medium-term Venezuela has neither recorded a turnabout in crude consumption nor in price and, unless something unforeseen occurs, consumption should increase by 2 percent annually.

ECLA OFFICIAL ON ASPECTS OF INTEREST RATE HIKE

PY110157 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 May 84

[Text] ECLA Executive Secretary Enrique Iglesias has stated that the increase of U.S. bank interest rates is tremendously negative for all of us. He added that this measure profoundly affects the adjustment processes in which we are involved.

Iglesias said that perhaps the only positive aspect of all this is that it will force us to review international cooperation and alert all banks in the sense that no adjustments are possible and that, therefore, it is necessary to review the foreign debt issue.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GENERAL STRIKE 'APPEARS' TO HAVE LITTLE IMPACT

FL101220 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 10 May 84

[Text] A 24-hour general strike called by the Dominican Republic's five major labor federations appeared to have little effect in Santo Domingo yesterday. Most stores were opened for business as usual and traffic clogged the streets. Police said they had no reports of strike related incidents either in the capital or in the country's provinces.

The labor groups called the strike to protest increases in the prices of basic foods and to demand that the government break off negotiations with the International Monetary Fund for an extended credit of $459 million. Two weeks ago food price riots left 54 people dead, more than 200 injured, and 4,300 under arrest.